

Letters
of
George W. Strong



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GEO. W. STRONG

GEO. W. STRONG

1843

LETTERS
OF
GEORGE W. STRONG

EDITED BY
JOHN R. STRONG



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by

John R. Strong

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JOHN R. STRONG.

*New York,
Dec., 1921.*

CONTENTS

	PAGE
MEMOIR	I
LETTERS TO JOHN NELSON LLOYD	25
LETTERS OF MR. STRONG'S LAW-STUDENT DAYS	209
Mrs. Selah Strong to George W. Strong	211
George W. Strong to Mrs. Selah Strong	212
Benjamin Strong to George W. Strong	214
Joseph Strong to George W. Strong	215
George Bloom to George W. Strong	217
Selah Strong Woodhull to George W. Strong	220
MISCELLANEOUS LETTERS	223
Judge Selah Strong to George W. Strong	225
The Same	226
George W. Strong to Mrs. Selah Strong	227
Benjamin Strong to George W. Strong	231
George W. Strong to Eliza Catherine Strong	232
Eliza Catherine Strong to George W. Strong	233
George W. Strong to Eloise Lloyd Strong	234
Eloise Lloyd Strong to George W. Strong	236

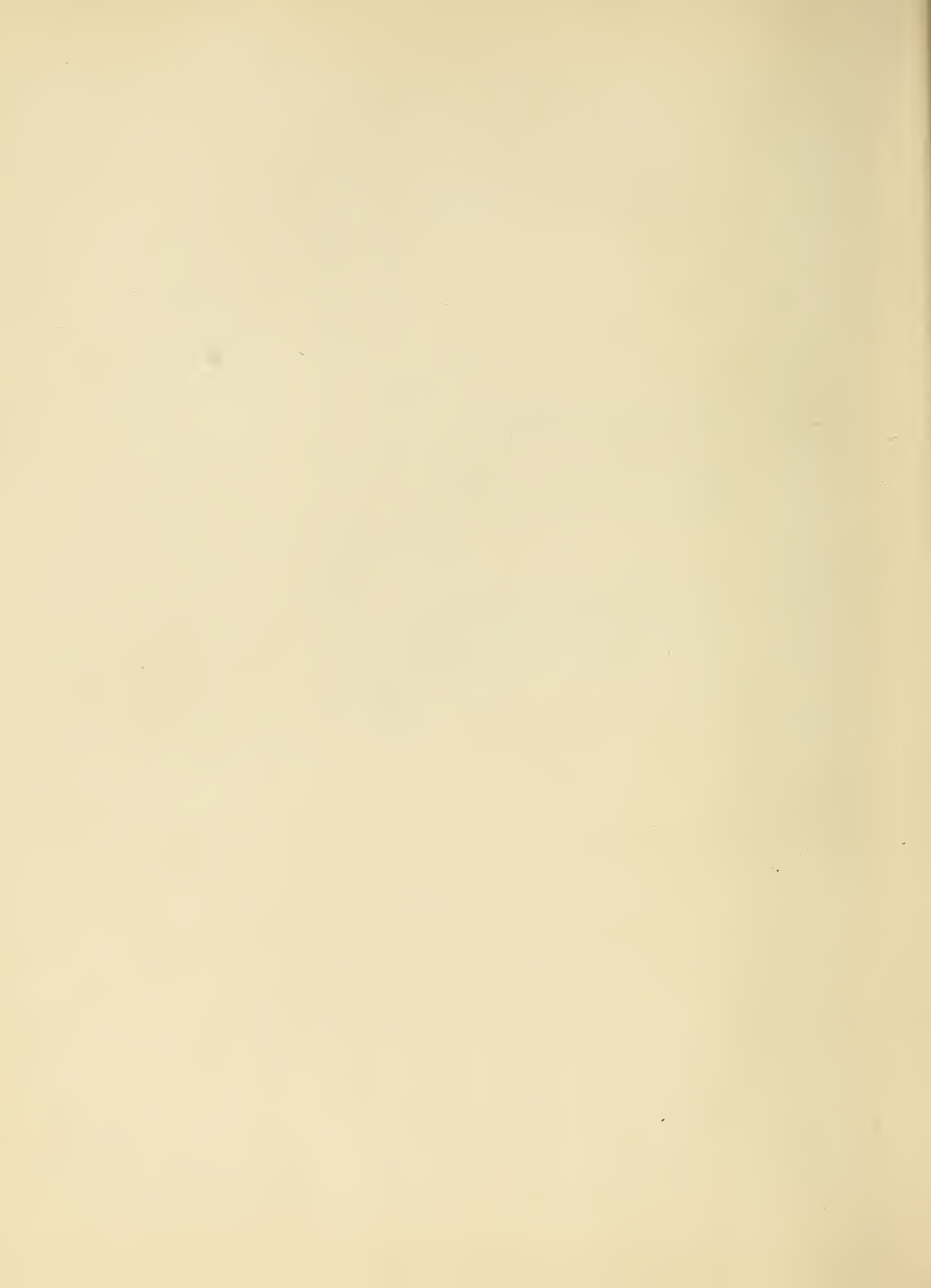
	PAGE
George W. Strong to George Templeton Strong	238
John Nelson Lloyd to George W. Strong .	239
The Same	240
The Same	242
The Same	244
William Johnson to George W. Strong .	245
The Same	246
John Wells to George W. Strong .	248
The Same	249
Thomas Addis Emmet to George W. Strong	251
Chancellor Kent to George W. Strong .	252
Francis Griffin to George W. Strong .	254
Robert Fulton to George W. Strong .	258
Philo Ruggles to George W. Strong .	260
George W. Strong to John Wallis .	261
The Orphan Asylum Society to George W. Strong	263

Οὐδέ νυ σοί περ
Ἐντρέπεται φίλον ἦτορ, Ὀλύμπιε; ὃν νύ τ' Ὀδυσσεύς
Ἀργείων παρὰ νηυσὶ χαρίζετο ἱερὰ ῥέζων
Τροίῃ ἐν εὐρείῃ; τί νύ οἱ τόσον ὠδύσαιο, Ζεῦ;
Τὴν δ' ἀπαμειβομένος προσέφη νεφεληγερέτα Ζεὺς
Τέκνον ἐμὸν, ποῖόν σε ἔπος φύγεν ἕρκος ὀδόντων;
Πῶς ἂν ἔπειτ' Ὀδυσῆος ἐγὼ θείοιο λαθοίμεν;
Ὅς πέρι μὲν νόον ἐστὶ βροτῶν, πέρι δ' ἱρὰ θεοῖσιν
Ἀθανάτοισιν ἔδωκε, τοῖ οὐρανὸν εὐρὺν ἔχουσιν;

Odyssey, I, 59.

Ὡς ἡ ῥίμφα θέουσα θαλάσσης κύματ' ἔταμnen
Ἀνδρα φέρουσα θεοῖς ἐναλίγκια μῆδε' ἔχοντα,
Ὅς πρὶν μὲν μάλα πολλὰ πάθ' ἄλγεα ὃν κατὰ θυμόν,
Ἀνδρῶν τε πτολέμους ἄλεγεινά τε κύματα πείρων,
Δὴ τότε γ' ἀτρέμας εὐδε, λελασμένος ὅςς' ἐπεπόνθει.

Ibid., XIII, 88.



LETTERS
OF
GEORGE W. STRONG

Memoir

GEORGE WASHINGTON STRONG, the youngest son of Judge and Mrs. Selah Strong of Setauket, Long Island, New York, was born at Mt. Misery, later Oakwood, and near Setauket, on January 20, 1783. As the Articles of Peace between England and America, after General Washington's remarkable leadership in the Revolution, were then in course of settlement by the representatives of the two nations, he was given the name of the successful General.

Judge Selah Strong, his father, was of the fourth generation in descent from Elder John Strong of Northampton, Massachusetts, the main stem of persons of this name in America, and left a large family of children, whose descendants form, at the present time, a numerous connection. Judge Selah Strong was a Deputy to the first three Provincial Congresses of the Colony of New York (1775-6), a Captain in the Continental Army in the Revolution, County Treasurer (1786-1802), State Senator (1792-80), and first Judge of the Court of Common Pleas for Suffolk County (1783-93). He was also President of the Board of Trustees of the Town of Brookhaven (1780-1797), and Supervisor of the Town (1784-1794). It was said by

his grandson, the late Justice Selah B. Strong, of the Supreme Court of New York, sitting also in the Court of Appeals, that on April 22, 1790, Judge Selah Strong entertained General Washington at Roe's Hotel, Setauket, when the General revisited Long Island on his Eastern tour of the country in that year. The building then called Roe's Hotel had, in an earlier time, been a private dwelling of Judge Selah Strong's ancestors. General Washington's Diary mentions his going at that time "to Setakit, to the house of a Capt. Roe," where he remained overnight. In the *Calendar of Historical Manuscripts relating to the War of the Revolution, in the Office of the Secretary of State* (Albany, 1868), Vol. 1, at pp. 44-47, are the records of the election of Selah Strong as Deputy from Brookhaven Town to the Provincial Congress of New York in 1775, and on p. 272 is the record of his election as Captain of the Brookhaven military contingent on March 27, 1776. Among the passengers on Robert Fulton's first steamboat, the *Clermont*, when she performed her first regular trip on the Hudson as a "packet" from New York to Albany on Sept. 4, 1807, was Judge Selah Strong, and he afterwards headed the signers of a testimonial to the success of her trip. (*Life of Fulton* (1909), by Alice Crary Sutcliffe, p. 251.) A woodcut of his dwelling at the Little Neck of St. George's Manor, near Setauket, appeared in the *New York Magazine* for October, 1792. He is said to have been a man of native power and great force of char-

acter and, when not otherwise occupied, a farmer. He was born on Christmas day, 1737, and died on July 4, 1815.

Mrs. Strong (April 14, 1740–August 12, 1812), the wife of Judge Selah Strong, was Miss Anna Smith, a great-granddaughter of Colonel William Smith, an English gentleman, born on February 2, 1655, near Higham-Ferrers, Northamptonshire, England, and, early in his life, an investor or merchant in the City of Tangier, Morocco, then a recent acquisition of King Charles II. In December, 1682, he was commissioned as “Mayor of the Royall City of Tanger in Africa,” in the time of Sir Richard Kirke, the last English Governor of Tangier, but held office only until November, 1683, when he left Tangier shortly before its dismantlement and evacuation by the British. His investments there appear to have been, to some extent, lost. He was married on November 26, 1675, at Tangier, to Martha, daughter of Henry Tunstall, Esq., of Putney, Surrey. They both came from England to America in 1686, in the time of King James II, and he was made a member of the Governor’s Council, and, in 1692, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Colony of New York. He was also the Judge of the Prerogative Court of Suffolk County, and many Wills, still extant, are on record as proved before him. Governor Andros, when in captivity at Boston in 1689, asked through a messenger that Col. William Smith, then living at “Zeatakkett, the middle of Long

Island," and Col. Hamilton, be sent from New York to obtain his release, but the project was not carried out. On first arriving in the Province of New York from England, he went in the same year to Setauket, where he bought from the Proprietors their allotments in the peninsula called Little Neck, at the present time generally distinguished as St. George's Manor, thereafter purchasing from the Indians, in 1691, very extensive lands further South on the Island, and the two purchases were the foundation of the Letters Patent made to him by Governor Fletcher, on October 9, 1693, of St. George's Manor. The Patent confirmed Col. Smith in his title to his purchases, and erected them into "the Lordshipp and Mannour of St. George's," with the usual right to hold in the Manor a Court Leet and a Court Baron, and with title to waifs, estrays, deodands, etc., and it also granted that the Manor should be free from the jurisdiction of any Town or Township, and that the tenants might choose Assessors for raising the public charges laid by the General Assembly of the Province. A further patent, dated June 17, 1697, annexed additional land to the Manor. Col. Smith died, when little more than fifty years old, at his house upon Little Neck, Setauket, on February 18, 1705. Mrs. Smith survived him for four years, and died on September 1, 1709. An inventory of his personal effects, verified by Mrs. Smith, will be found in the publications of the New York Historical Society, *Abstracts of Wills*, Vol. I, p. 322, and embraces the

usual possessions of a man of his station, his portrait, silver-headed cane, silver ware, a "fine fishing rod," a "Turkey Scimeter," a velvet saddle and side saddle, several swords, etc. In a paper on "Coaches in Colonial New York," read before the New York Historical Society on March 4, 1890, it was said that "the first coach was brought to New York by Col. William Smith, who came to this country from Tangier," and a newspaper report stated that the lecturer said that "it was considered a marvel of beauty." At page 410 of the last mentioned volume is his interesting Will, dividing the Manor among his heirs, and devising to his eldest son, Henry, his land on the "Neck, commonly known by the name of the little Neck, of the Town of Brookhaven, but now within the Manor of St. George, with my new and old house, and all other buildings thereon." The Will of Mrs. Smith may be found in Vol. 2 of the same series, at p. 123. The title to the little Neck "in the Manor of St. George's within Brookhaven," has always remained in the descendants and connections of Col. Smith. It was once, in 1768, almost conveyed, with certain other property, by William Smith, a descendant of Col. William Smith of Tangier, to a Mr. Andrew Seton, for £5050, but who gave back at the same time to William Smith a purchase-money Mortgage of the premises for the greater part of the consideration. This Mortgage having been foreclosed, the property was bid for and secured at the sale, in 1785, by Judge Selah Strong, the husband

of Mrs. Anna Smith Strong, a descendant of Col. Smith, and the title has ever since been in him and in his and her descendants. In *Dwight's History of the Strong Family*, Vol. I, p. 619, additional interesting lines of descent are mentioned in connection with Mrs. Strong's ancestry.

It is now, at the time of writing, nearly sixty-seven years since Mr. George W. Strong's death, and the members of his family, his friends, partners and law-students, have also all passed away. The writer, who was less than four years old when Mr. Strong died, retains only a moment's impression of him. What can be ascertained, therefore, of Mr. Strong's earlier life, can now be only very fragmentary and imperfect. A single collection still exists from his correspondence, arranged after his decease in two volumes by his son, and including 446 letters. Besides these, there is a letter to, or in reference to, his daughter, Eloise, but not attainable at this moment, and also a letter to his son, found attached to the latter's private journal. This Memorial has been compiled by bringing together the more generally interesting of these letters, or portions of them, and it is thought possible that the perhaps unusual character of their writer might be perpetuated through them, and thus made accessible to his descendants. Wherever you look in these letters, you find a wealth of common sense and moderation and delightful humour, with a literary style which it

is easier to see the merit of than to equal. The greater part of the collection consists of his letters to the brother of his first wife, Mr. John Nelson Lloyd, of Lloyd's Neck, Long Island, N. Y., extending to the decease of the latter gentleman, in 1841, and through the care of his daughter, Miss Mary A. Strong, a few letters to and from him were added from his law-student days, and there are, besides, a few miscellaneous letters.

Mr. Strong's name appears in the catalogue of the graduating class of Yale College in 1803; his birth-place was across the Sound, and nearly opposite to the College. He is also listed at Princeton with an honorary A.B. and A.M. in 1804 and 1806 respectively. A letter from Yale College in the collection states the selection of eight members of his class, including him for "Exhibiting an oration" at the Commencement of 1806. Among his friends at Yale were his classmates, George Bloom, who was also his room-mate, and Messrs. Darling, Day, Dutton, Dwight, Holley, Hyde, Porter, Scarborough and Sherman, and men in other classes, Messrs. T. J. Oakley, Smith, Tappan and Selah Strong Woodhull, all of whose names appear in the earliest letters. Mr. John Nelson Lloyd, also, was in the class of 1802. In reading these oldest letters, we see that in 1804 occur two letters to him addressed as "Law Student," New York, and another is addressed so later, in February, 1806; this last letter commissions him to obtain a copy-right of a book for its writer, who

was, apparently, a friend of his family. Some other letters of 1804, addressed to or from 92 Nassau St., New York, contain a reference to "the last year of my Collegiate life," and an allusion to his classmates, Holley, Darling and Porter. In 1805, a letter from his brother, Benjamin, advises him of a suggestion, lately made, that he should leave the study of the Law for that of the Ministry. A letter of August, 1806, is addressed to him, "to the care of Caleb S. Riggs, Esq., New York," who was then a Counsellor at Law at 18 Cedar Street, and the addressee is described in the letter as, "no doubt *ex aetate* superintendent of the affairs of the shop!" during the Summer absence of his seniors, the letter continuing: "it is an office for which you are well qualified by the unremitting perseverance which I have ever ranked among the many meritorious traits in your character; the well known truth of this assertion will shield me from that imputation of flattery," etc. The letter is from a Mr. Price, a fellow law-student very probably. A letter of November 25, 1806, is a joint tribute from four of his friends or office-mates, Messrs. William M. Price, John J. Sickels, R. M. Popham and William E. Dunscomb, and is addressed to him as "Attorney at Law," referring evidently to his recent admission to the Bar. A passage from this letter is: "Endowed with a strong mind and brilliant imagination, which your impregnable regard for virtue has served to strengthen, we have ever beheld in you a model, which to imitate

would be to establish an unblemished character. Modest of your merits, you have never plumed yourself on those acquirements which your diligence has secured to you, and which your perseverance must render invaluable. In your friendship, we have ever found your actions exceed the measure of your professions." His signature to the Roll of the Court of Chancery on his admission to the Bar in New York City appears on the 21 November, 1806. Mr. Washington Irving, who was born in the same year with Mr. Strong, and doubtless was given his baptismal name for the same reason, signed on the same day; and his signature appears next in order. The very noticeable signature of John Wells appears with the date, 10 April, 1805. Mr. Strong again signed the Roll on the 5 July, 1814, perhaps with more particular reference to the Court of Chancery.

In September, 1808, a letter from Benjamin to George W. Strong refers to a letter written by the latter to the *Spectator*, newspaper, and is an instance of the habit among the four brothers, Thomas, Benjamin, Joseph and George, of entitling each other as "Brother Thomas," "Brother Joseph," etc., a habit which is still remembered of them; the letter to the New York *Spectator* refers to a political, Federalist-Democratic dispute at Setauket, of which he wrote a careful narrative and a firm statement, quoting some verses by Goldsmith. It was written at his father's instance. The letter received two answers through

other newspapers. Mr. Strong's career, after his entering upon the practice of the law, can be traced to some extent through his correspondence, and in other ways, but the daily course of his professional labour, with its no doubt varied incidents, is very seldom alluded to in detail by him in his letters. His office-registers, giving formal outlines of the lawsuits in his office, are still, to a considerable extent, in existence, extending back to the time of his admission to the Bar. Mr. Strong probably had some maritime practice, or, at least, some business with mariners, but how much is not now known, as his existing Registers show very little trace of it. Some sea-farer presented him with a model of a full-rigged ship, about eighteen inches long, and very elaborately constructed, which the writer of this Memoir remembers most certainly, as he played with it, as a child, not, as was mentioned to him, to its advantage. A ship's Captain, also, presented to Mr. Strong a gold watch, bought abroad. The Captain, however, mentioning his own cleverness, told him that he had paid no duty on it, and Mr. Strong, on the following morning, deciding that he could not wear a watch thus introduced into the country, went to the Custom House, declared it, and paid the duty. This incident was remembered and frequently spoken of among his children.

In 1809, Mr. Strong was married to Angelina, daughter of John Lloyd, Jr., and sister of John Nelson Lloyd, and his second cousin through his mother,

whose mother was Margaret Lloyd. By this marriage he had two daughters, Eloise Lloyd, who married Elias Hasket Derby of Boston on Thursday, September 4, 1834, and Mary Amelia, who died unmarried. A marriage-notice appears in the *Long Island Star* for July 27, 1809, as follows: "Strong-Lloyd. At Huntington, L. I., by the Revd Mr. Schenck, George W. Strong, Esq., of New York, to Miss Angelina Lloyd, daughter of the late John Lloyd, Esq., of Lloyd's Neck."

In October, 1813, is a letter from Robert Fulton to George W. Strong as to the contract for the steamer *Paragon*, Fulton's fourth boat in New York waters, and it is addressed to Mr. Strong's office at 15 Burling Slip. On September 20, 1814, there came upon him the death of his wife, Angelina Lloyd Strong, aged twenty-nine years. Mr. and Mrs. Strong then lived at 37 Sugar-loaf Street, soon to be called Franklin Street, and then or recently in the Northern verge or suburb of the rapidly growing town. Letters have been found relating to this marriage, though none directly between the parties to it themselves. In December, 1814, appears a sharp and determined letter from him as attorney for the Union Bank. In 1815, Philo Ruggles, a lawyer of Poughkeepsie, writes to him, and this letter has an interest beyond its own, as, many years afterwards, in 1848, on Monday, May 15, a granddaughter of the former, Miss Ellen Caroline Ruggles, daughter of Samuel B. Ruggles, of New

York, was married to Mr. Strong's son. In 1819, Mr. Strong was married to his second wife, Eliza Catherine, daughter of Oliver Templeton of New York. There were two children of this marriage, George Templeton and John Wells, of whom the latter died while still a child. One of Miss Eliza Templeton's sisters, Maria, also married a lawyer, William Johnson, the widely known reporter of Chancellor Kent's decisions, and an account of the marriage of their daughter, Eliza, appears in Mr. Strong's letters. In September, 1822, a letter appears from Thomas Addis Emmet at Albany, in care of John Wells, Murray Street, New York, Mr. Wells then residing on Murray Street and Mr. Strong having theretofore become Mr. Wells' partner. In the next year, in September, he is addressed by the same distinguished gentleman at Pine Street, New York; this had been the business address of Mr. Wells and Mr. Strong, but Mr. Wells had in that month, after a brief illness, unexpectedly died. Mr. Strong wrote to his brother-in-law, Mr. Lloyd, of this event: "Thus has died the first man, beyond all dispute, in this State. No death since that of Hamilton has been so severely felt or deeply and universally deplored." Mr. Strong's son is remembered as mentioning once, in his table-talk, that Mr. Wells' decease was the last occasion on which the principal Courts of the City had to close for such a reason, he being engaged in almost every important case on one side or the other. In the *Evening Post* for September

8 and 11, 1823, appears an account of a Meeting of the Bar to pay respect to his memory, William Johnson, Esq., in the Chair. Mr. Strong's partnership with Mr. Wells was entered into probably but a few years before the latter's death, certainly by January, 1820. His subsequent partners were chiefly George Griffin (1823), and Marshall S. Bidwell (1838). His business address in 1820-21 was at 44½ Pine Street, while his dwelling was at 50 Franklin Street. In 1822 he removed his family to 108 Greenwich Street, and in 1830-31 he changed his office address to 47 Wall Street, in 1835 to Broadway at the corner of Exchange Place, after the Great Fire, and, somewhat later, to 55 Wall Street; his last office address was at 68 Wall Street; this building remained intact until very recently.

Since this Memoir was prepared, an exceptional event has occurred, which should be mentioned here, the writer having had the happiness to meet a gentleman, who, in his first youth, was associated with Mr. Strong, and who has stated several circumstances as to Mr. Strong from personal memory. Mr. John A. Stewart, formerly President of the United States Trust Company in Wall Street, and now, in his hundredth year, an active Director of the Company, coming to town twice a week to supervise the business of the Company, and retaining an alertness and strength of mind which might be desired by younger men, wrote, in his answer to a request for an interview: "I was

acquainted with Mr. George W. Strong, who was the President of the Board of Education in 1842, and I was Clerk of the Board." In an interview, he represented Mr. Strong as "a man of middle height and rather stout," resembling, he continued, in this respect, the frontispiece of this book, "not at all effusive" in his manner, but rather reserved, and "a great real estate lawyer." He also said that Mr. Strong had many law-students, it being the custom at that time, instead of going to a law school, to join the office of a lawyer. He recalled also that Mr. Strong was Counsel for The Bank for Savings—*The Bank for Savings*, as there was at the time of its establishment only one institution of this kind and standing in the City, then situated in Chambers Street, and afterwards removing to Bleecker Street. The Bank has again removed to Fourth Avenue and 22d Street. Mr. Stewart did not think that the portrait which forms the frontispiece of this book, nor the half-length oil portrait now hanging in the offices of Mr. Strong's successors in business, exactly reproduced him. Mr. Strong seemed for a moment close by, in the memory of the gentleman who had known and spoke of him.

Incidents of his family life, included in the selection from Mr. Strong's letters, will be of interest to those for whom alone this book is produced. Some allusions to him, found in his son's private journal, may, as a contemporary light, be added to these. As to examinations of students at Columbia College we read in this

journal: March 25, 1836: "My father is to be there and he will be horrified if I don't do *very well*, as I fear I *shall not*." And on April 2: "If I only satisfy my father I shall be satisfied." Again, on July 18: "The visiting Committee, Messrs. Anthon, Knox and Strong." July 19: "Met my father just coming in." On October 3 his son took the Greek and Latin medals, and also in Chemistry, and the bronze medal in Latin composition. "My father is satisfied, that's one comfort." And on March 15, 1837: "I should not care one cent if it was not for my *Pater*, who will be there, I suppose—or at all events be sure to hear of it somehow or other; he would be most horribly vexed." As to examinations of candidates for the Bar, we read: May 17, 1839, "The Supreme Court has got a new idea . . . that entrance examinations are much too light. . . . The 25 rejected stood another examination which lasted from 4 until half past eight, my father, Edwards and Field being the Inquisitors. The two latter tortured them horribly, examined strictly and severely. . . . The old gentleman came last, and he examined rapidly and lightly, and evidently gained thereby an immense deal of popularity, among the rising generation." Other entries are: Dec. 4, 1835: Mr. Strong was "condemned to be Vice-President of the Webster Meeting." Dec. 17: His law-office was burned in the Great Fire, but his papers were rescued. April 27, 1837; The Great Panic of 1837. "My father looks and talks and evidently *feels* very gloomily on

the subject. For myself, I feel very philosophic—on my own account. I firmly believe that in a moral point of view it would be all for my good to have to push my own way, *entirely* unsupported." May 6: Run on the Dry Dock Bank. "Uncle Benjamin (the Presdt) . . . called this evening and had a kind of consultation with my father." June 2: Fire in a house near Mr. Strong's house. "My father had dressed himself and gone round there. He found about a dozen people round the door deliberating whether to open it or not. He told them to open it at once, in the hope that the papers and so on might be got out." Jan. 14, 1838: "Took a walk with my father up to Eighth street. He tells me that Hawks' statement in the *N. Y. Review* that Burr practised with a pistol some time before his duel with Hamilton, is a fact. He went out once to Burr's place at Richmond Hill, on business, and there he saw the board set up and perforated with pistol balls, where the infernal, cold-blooded scoundrel had been practising." Oct. 16: The Harlem Bridge cause, D. Lord and Beardsley for the plaintiffs, and Geo. Griffin, Butler and G. W. Strong for the defendants. Oct. 18: "Verdict mainly for the defense." Dec. 15: "Uncle Thomas is in town and stays with us tonight." Jan. 31, 1839: "Old lady Hamilton at the office . . . had walked down from St. Mark's Place, and was going to walk back." April 25: "My father has been all day engaged in the duties of that high and responsible office of public

trust, a Commissioner of Public Schools, or whatever it is, and travelling all over the island with his compeers, examining, admonishing and inspecting its various nurseries of the Tree of Knowledge." May 16: "My father out all day on his Common School Inspectorship." May 23: "My father out all the morning Common School inspecting." June 12: "That's a very bad habit of the old gentleman's, trying to settle up suits in this way," that is, an amicable settlement and compromise. June 22: Walter Cutting "tells me that the old gentleman had the Chancellorship, or the V.C. ship, offered to him a few years ago, and declined on the ground of incompetency. I should think him as competent as McCoun or Walworth." Jan. 8, 1840: "Chancellor Kent paid us a visit this morning. He's going to get out another Ed. of the Commentaries." References occur to Mr. Bidwell, Mr. Strong's partner. April 17, 1839: "Saw a copy of Sir T. Head's 'Narrative'" at the office. "Mr. Bidwell says he never knew his own importance before; he's discovered that all the Canadian controversy has been simply Head *vs.* Bidwell." June 27: "Bidwell opened the argument at one [on a return to a writ of Habeas Corpus, before the Recorder], and kept the Court crowded and attentive till four, with the most eloquent and forcible address I've heard from him yet. It was very clear and very convincing, and as *elegant* in style and manner as anything I ever heard in a Court of Law. He commented on the affidavit

at length, and cut it to pieces in beautiful style." As to Mr. Strong's law-students, for whom his office was noted, some references are found, as follows: Jan. 11, 1837: "Seymour, who graduated last year, wants to enter my father's office." July 12: "Chittenden proposes to enter my father's office." "My father expresses himself as unwilling to admit any more students till Spring." July 25-31: McMullen makes the same arrangement for studentship as Chittenden. Sept. 6, 1839: George C. Anthon entered the office. Oct. 1st: John Weeks joined the office. Nov. 5: John Hone wants to come in as a student. Do not see how "we can squeeze more than *nine* into these two little pill-boxes of offices." June 9, 1840: Augustus Cram as a student. Oct. 19: Peter Strong as a student. Nov. 20: Eight at examination this evening. Mr. Strong's practice was to regularly examine his students. Nov. 21: Four new mahogany desks arrive for Peter Strong, Schermerhorn, Whitlock and Geo. T. Strong. On the fly-leaves of those of Mr. Strong's Registers of Suits which still remain, appear his personal certificates for his law-students, as follows, for: Adam Smith (1813); Caleb Woodhull (1813); Minor Hallock (1815); Nathaniel Coles, Jr. (1815); Elisha D. Whittlesey (1815); Robert J. Chesebrough (1817); Clarence D. Sackett (1818); Frederick Fairlie (1818); Benjamin Tibbetts (1819); Colin Campbell Tredwell (1819); William Ennis (1825); Alexander H. Phillips (1825); Frederick

Bronson (1826); John C. Cruger (1826); Alexander H. Dana (1827); Charles Wiley (1828); Jonathan Nathan (1829); Thomas W. Chrystie (1830); Lorenzo Neely (1831); Charles I. Taylor (1831); Abner Benedict (1831); Henry Whitney (1831); James R. Averill (1831); Charles Elliott Scoville (1832); William Templeton Johnson (1832); Lewis B. Woodruff (1832); Ethelbert Smith Mills (1835); Edward Tompkins (1836); Charles Seymour (1837); John McMullen (1838); George W. Morell (1842); John Mansell Bradhurst (1842); Theodore C. Vermilye (1842); James Tallmadge, Jr. (1843); Alfred Spink (1843); Charles Edward Strong (1843); David S. Coddington (1844); Albert H. Phillips (1844); Edward B. Smith (1844); John H. Parish (1844); Ira Day Whittlesey (1844); George P. Quackenbos (1845); Charles F. Winthrop (1845); George A. Jones (1845); Edward E. Potter (1846); Stephen Bayard Fish (1846); Edward Z. Lewis (1846); Edward H. Swan (1846); Theodore F. McCurdy (1846); Henry H. Morange (1847); Arthur M. Jones (1847); Henry Van Schaick (1847); James D. Clark (1847); George H. Sharp (1848); James F. Ruggles (1848); Pierre M. Van Wyck (1848); and John Jay White (1849). The list is quite incomplete; Judge Selah B. Strong, particularly, Mr. Strong's nephew, was one of his law-students. Referring again to his son's journal, an allusion to Mr. Strong's fondness for horses occurs. June 19, 1849: "Ellen took a drive behind my father's two hippopotami yesterday."

As to the letters to Mr. Lloyd: Oct. 26, 1855: "From the character of the vast multitude of letters addressed to my father and carefully preserved by him, which I have examined, including hundreds from Lloyd, it is evident that he was the only man with whom my father kept up a regular correspondence on other than business matters. . . . Whatever was the motive for keeping them, they are invaluable, and if I leave a child or children behind me I shall take care that they prize and preserve the two or three quartos I am slowly constructing as they deserve. I am thankful for possessing so faithful a portrait of so wise and good a father."

There was a tendency to make Mr. Strong Vice-Chancellor, or Chancellor, once, but he preferred not to accept office. This tendency is referred to in his son's journal for June 22, 1839; and is mentioned as one of "a few years ago"; his son is remembered also as saying of him, long afterwards: "They wanted to make him Chancellor, but he wouldn't hear of it." Any suggestion of the Chancellorship could only have been made before Chancellor Walworth's official term commenced (1828-1848); the Court was abolished in 1846-7. Mr. Strong mentions the Vice-Chancellorship in his letter of March 17, 1828. Chancellor Walworth's appointment to his office was of April 19, 1828. (1 *Paige, Chancery Reports*, note.) The subject is again alluded to by Mr. Strong in his letter of March 24, 1828. An inference, therefore, is not without color

of reason, that on Mr. Strong's declining the Vice-Chancellorship, a suggestion was made to him that he might be spoken of for Chancellor, as was said by his son, and that he declined to have his name considered. So far as is known, Mr. Strong held public office only in connection with the schools, at first as School-Commissioner in the city, serving without salary; after the religious controversy over the Public Schools in 1840, he was made the first President of the then newly organized Board of Education. (*The New York Public School*, by A. Emerson Palmer (1905), pp. 101, 340.)

Mr. Strong died on June 27, 1855. He dwelt at that time in a house built by him on Gramercy Park, New York City. The land for this house, at the Northwest corner of the Park, was bought by him in 1848, at the time of his son's marriage, and he built the house thereafter, moving into it from 108 Greenwich Street. The adjoining house toward the West was owned by his sister-in-law, Miss Olivia Templeton, who moved into it from 110 Greenwich Street, No. 2 Carlisle Street, the earlier residence of the Misses Templeton, having apparently already been given up; the next house to his to the East was owned by his son. The three houses were connected by private passageways. Mrs. Strong had died on November 24, 1853.

At a small meeting of the Bar, attended by some of the more distinguished members, on the day of his funeral, Chief Justice Oakley in the Chair, very appreciative and descriptive Resolutions were proposed

by Daniel Lord, Esq., and adopted, mentioning, "the simplicity of his demeanor in the midst of great professional success, his forbearance and patience in controversy, his truth, his honesty of opinion, of speech and of conduct," also, "that we bear witness, from knowledge, to his great professional learning, industry and acquirements, we cherish in our memory his kind and unassuming manners, his high integrity, his unspotted honor, his irreproachable private character, and his lofty principles of morals and religion." The United States Circuit Court adjourned on that day in respect for his memory.

Mr. Strong appears to have been eminent in the more substantial elements of character, while his strength and practical ability were evident to all who knew him. The deep regard felt for him by his family appears in a passage in the journal just mentioned, as follows: July 10, 1855. "Universal, sincere regret, even in this thoughtless, hurrying city, as for a public loss and general calamity. With good reason; learning, judgment, candor, integrity, justice, charity and kindliness, courtesy to rich and poor, all combined in him. How many have I heard of who spoke of him as the best man they ever knew. Wonderful, untiring industry and fidelity in labor marked all his life. Not from love of money-making. That feeling was never manifest in him, did not exist in him. He repudiated all openings to wealth, shrank from profit, except in the righteous and moderate wages of work. It was

from higher than money-making motives that he toiled early and late, denied himself relaxation and holiday; it was from the feeling that what work he had to do ought to be done thoroughly, promptly and well. Truth, justice and fidelity in every relation and every duty seemed part of his nature. I have not felt all their value, because I never could conceive of him as otherwise than perfect and spotless in integrity, because it was impossible he should do a wrong, or fail to render to every one round him *more* than the amplest measure of right."

The Revd. Benjamin W. Dwight, in his History of the Strong Family, concludes his account of Mr. Strong with these words: "His tastes were all simple, and he had no love for office or ostentation. His character was one of remarkable symmetry. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church, and is remembered by those who knew him best as a wise and upright man, who feared God, and regarded carefully the rights and interests of his fellows."

J. R. S.

Letters
From
George Washington Strong
To
John Nelson Lloyd

Letters to John Nelson Lloyd

NEW YORK, 23 Nov., 1821.

MY D^R SIR:

Since writing you last, it has occurred to me that the plan proposed of taking the trespasser by a warrant issued by a Justice of Queens, will probably prove abortive, for unless the Defendant personally appears before the Justice at the return of the warrant, the Justice will have no jurisdiction, and cannot proceed. It is true the officer making the arrest will have the right to take the Defendant forthwith before the Justice, and have him tried, but this would defeat the plan of having my attendance, and to trust to the Defendant's *promise* to appear on a given day, would be putting ourselves completely in his power to defeat our object.

On further reflection, (and that too after a good deal of examination), I believe our true course is to commence a suit in the Common Pleas of Queens. . . . As I do not attend the Common Pleas of Queens, and as I consider myself a party concerned

in interest, I have spoken to T. McCoun Esq. to bring the suit. But I will attend to it in its different stages as much as if it were in my own name. Mr. McCoun and myself both think that the present plan is the only possible one that can be resorted to with any prospect of success. . . .

In haste, I remain,

Yours &c.,

GEO. W. STRONG.

NEW YORK, 17th Dec^r, 1821.

MY D^r SIR:

I have at length prevailed on Eloise to write you a Letter, which is enclosed. I cannot, and presume you will not, give her much credit for it, as it was written in too much haste. She grows remarkably fast, and I must say, after making all allowances for parental partiality, what perhaps I have never said, but often thought, before, that she bids fair to make a superior woman, should her life be spared. Her understanding is good, but exhibits nothing of a superior order or of brilliancy. What pleases me best, however, is the general turn of her mind, and which, to my view, exhibits strong tokens of great discretion, forethought and

prudence, which after all are perhaps, in women, the most valuable virtues. . . .

With best regards from my family to yours, I remain,

Yours very truly,

GEO. W. STRONG.

NOTE: Miss Eloise Lloyd Strong was born on May 13, 1810; her sister, Miss Mary Amelia Strong, on August 25, 1813.

NEW YORK, 16th Feb'y, 1822.

MY D: SIR:

Yours of the 13th inst. I found on my table this morning, the Captain, I presume, having forgotten to hand it to me last evening. I unintentionally omitted in my last to desire you to say to Uncle Harry that I would with sincere pleasure prepare the leases, and with or without compensation as may be most agreeable to him. . . . I have lately been favored with a M.S. copy of Chancellor Kent's opinion in *Kenney vs. Udall*. It is a most elaborate one, and, when it appears in Johnson's Reports, the conduct of the Doctor in this transaction will not "tell well" to posterity. Do you think it would afford you any amusement for a leisure hour if I should enclose it to you for your perusal? And if you have any fancy to observe the immense dis-

parity between your Humble Servant and "Hercules," I will accompany it with my brief. Should this be done, however, delicacy toward the Doctor, as well as myself, would require that you should keep the matter strictly to yourself.

We are all well, and beg kind remembrances to you and yours.

Yours truly,

GEO. W. STRONG.

NOTE: By Uncle Harry is probably meant Henry Lloyd, unmarried, the elder brother of John Lloyd, Jr.; the latter was the father of John Nelson Lloyd.

LETTER OF FEB. 25, 1822.

I take pleasure in handing you the two enclosed papers. They are necessarily expressed in a good deal of technical language, which must be more or less unintelligible to a layman, but which, to a lawyer, is as familiar as A,B,C. Still, I think you will be able to comprehend a great part of it. I beg you distinctly to understand that my object in offering you the perusal of my brief was not for the purpose of enabling you to institute a comparison as to the merits of the two, except only so far as to show the immense difference between them, for you well know that I have always looked upon

Chancellor Kent as having reached an elevation altogether unattainable by almost any other lawyer in this country. He is a perfect giant in the law, and so will be universally admitted by posterity, some 2 or 300 years hence. Still, I suppose it would afford you some pleasure to read mine with his, both being written on the same subject, and, I may add too, *both on the same side*. For when he has made up a decided opinion on any subject, he suffers nothing to stand in his way. The arguments on the other side are treated by him as mere cobwebs. Nor has he any delicacy, when occasion requires it, as you will see in this very case, in pronouncing the English Lord Chancellors wrong.

LETTER OF MAR. 4, 1822.

I am in no want of the papers you refer to. My brief is *functus officio*, and the other paper I had copied by one of the clerks on purpose for you. Keep them, therefore, as long as you please. The Chancellor, you will observe, confines his remarks chiefly to the 2d Point, and I consider his discussion of it a most elaborate one, one which, without

a "perhaps," would have done honor to Lord Mansfield in his best days. True, the excellency of it does consist chiefly "in the mass of citation," and in what better could it consist? The province of a judge is to *ascertain* and *declare*, not to *make*, the law. And how can he find out the law, except by a careful and thorough examination and comparison of all the cases previously decided upon the same subject? The principles involved in the case were new in this country, and left entirely unsettled by the English decisions, and the only possible merit which my brief can claim is that the outlines which it marked out were confirmed by the Court. But it required a master's hand, not inferior to that of James Kent, to fill up those outlines so as to present a beautiful and consistent whole.

NEW YORK, 1st April, 1822.

MY D. SIR:

After leaving you, I made the best of my way against a heavy head wind, and thro a good deal of fog, and some hard rain, to Brooklyn, where I arrived very wet, and not a little fatigued, just before sunset. I found all well at home, and experienced no bad effects from a ride, which, to

say the least of it, was rather imprudent and unpleasant.

I have heard nothing yet from Uncle Harry, tho I hope to do so either this evening or tomorrow morning.

Tell John that after a pretty diligent search, I can find no copy-book with pictures in it. I have therefore been obliged to take one without pictures, but to compensate for his disappointment, (which I wished much to avoid), I have bought and now send him a picture book. I also send two others, one for Angelina and the other for Phœbe. I have not designated the owners, leaving that to you, which you can do much better than I, after you see how they suit their different fancies.

I also hand you Sugden's Letters, which I think will afford you some very useful information, without encroaching much upon your time. I am in no hurry for its return as it is not a very useful book in a lawyer's library. Indeed I bought it only for the clerks.

Except Mary, who has a cold, we are all well, and unite in affectionate regards to you, M^{rs} Lloyd and the children. I must beg you to tell John that I shall expect to see the copy-book written thro without any blots, and with evident

marks of improvement, and that as soon as he is able he must write me a letter.

Yours very sincerely,

GEO. W. STRONG.

JOHN N. LLOYD, ESQ.

NOTE: John, Angelina and Phœbe were three of Mr. Lloyd's children. There was also another son, Henry.

NEW YORK, 15th May, 1822.

MY D^R SIR:

Your two letters of yesterday and today are duly received.

You entirely mistake the time of trial. "The law's delay" is greater than you imagine. The Writ is only returnable next month, and the trial cannot possibly come on before the Court following, which I believe is in November next. I will see that due attention is paid to it.

I would with pleasure ask M^r Wells' opinion what your compensation ought to be, were he not a very unsuitable person to judge in such a case. It ought to be a man of judgement, who is conversant with business of this kind, a man, for instance, in your line of business. Give me your own ideas; I do not believe we shall differ.

I regret extremely to hear that you think more unfavorably of Uncle Harry's situation, also that

M^{rs} L. is quite indisposed; after all, this is a very troublesome and dying world, full of every species and degree of misery that man is capable of enduring.

Poor brother Joseph, the shock of his failure has not in the least subsided, and every day it strikes me with more horror. . . . He has now cotton on hand here to about \$35,000., the brig on a voyage to Savannah, worth about \$6000., and about \$50,000. worth of property in Georgia, the whole of which are assigned to secure the confidential creditors in the first place. Still, you know that the first calculations in such cases are seldom realized.

I know my feelings on this subject are unreasonable and unaccountable. But I feel as if I was not worth a cent in the world, as if I too were coming to absolute want, and my only consolation is that I am not in debt and that my children are provided for. My reason tells me this is all nonsense, but I cannot get the better of my feelings.

My family are well, and we unite in affectionate regards to yourself, M^{rs} Lloyd and the children.

Yours &c.,

GEO. W. STRONG.

NOTE: This letter refers to the failure of Strong, Willets and Co., referred to again in Mr. Lloyd's letter of April 20, 1833.

LETTER OF JULY 19, 1822.

When Capt. Cogswell was here a few days ago, he stated the circumstances of his arrest at the suit of James, on the 4th inst., while in the act of celebrating the Independence of his Country. As this affair has originated in the trespass suit, and as I have never understood that the Captain conducted improperly in discharging the duties of his office of Sheriff *pro hac vice*, but, on the contrary, manifested, if anything, rather a lack of courage when the loaded gun was pointed at him, and resorted to the prudent measure of applying for a file of men for his protection, I for one am disposed to see him out in it, and so I have told him, adding that I have no doubt the other proprietors will join me in it. As this suit is in the Common Pleas of Suffolk, I presume my nephew Selah B. Strong, who is there quite the cock of the walk, will be the most suitable person to take charge of the defense. The writ cannot be returnable before next October, nor can the trial commence previous to next May.

NEW YORK, 21st August, 1822.MY D^r. SIR:

Your letter of the 18th Inst. reached me yesterday, and I extremely regret to hear of the serious

and alarming indisposition of M^{rs} L. M^r White had mentioned it to me the day before, which was the first intimation I had of it. From your letter, I am encouraged to hope she will get up again. Perhaps of all situations in which we can be placed, none is more excruciating and agonizing than that of watching over a tenderly beloved wife, under the apprehension that she will not survive her sickness. The sensations are such that I never shall forget them, or cease to think of them without the most gloomy recollections.

You doubtless hear many alarming reports of the sickness here. It is indeed bad enough, but I presume not as bad as you hear in the country. I have not yet shut up the office, but have ceased to sleep in town. . . .

I, of course, shall defer my visit to the Neck with the children for the present.

Yours truly,

GEO. W. STRONG.

JOHN N. LLOYD, ESQ.

NEW YORK, 14th April, 1823.

MY DEAR SIR:

Since I left your house, I have not heard anything in particular respecting M^{rs} Lloyd's health.

My anxiety on this point induces me to request you would write me as often as your leisure may permit. . . .

Coleman having recently stated in his paper that Dr O'Meara's "Voice from St Helena" had been commended by 29 different European writers, and I having otherwise heard a very exalted character of it, I was induced to buy it. I have read the first and a part of the 2nd Vol., and began it with every possible prepossession in its favour. But I confess I have been disappointed. The real object of the Book is perfectly apparent, viz., to wipe away the stigma from Napoleon's *moral* character, and to cast reproach upon England on the score of his treatment. That he was a prodigy of greatness as a conqueror no man can doubt, and it required no voice from St Helena to establish that fact. I have no doubt that O'Meara has done Sir Hudson Lowe most essential injustice, for which he will be made to pay severely in the libel suit which Sir H. has brought against him, as stated in the English papers. He makes the Governor a mere fool, actuated by the meanest and lowest suspicions and prejudices. The Governor's situation was a highly responsible one. The eyes of the world were upon him, and that he acted in the manner represented, or that the British Govern-

ment should appoint a man of no more sagacity and discretion than what are allowed to him, are in my mind conclusively repelled by the intrinsic circumstances of the case. . . . My word for it, if D^r O's Book survives one hundred years, it will be condemned more than applauded by an impartial posterity. But I will not pursue this subject further. Having stated my opinion of the Book, and which is so different from what I anticipated, I felt bound to say something in support of it. . . .

We are all well, and beg kind remembrances to you and yours.

Yours truly,

GEO. W. STRONG.

JOHN N. LLOYD, ESQ.

NEW YORK, 30th June, 1823.

MY DEAR SIR:

After leaving you yesterday week, M^r . . . and myself reached Jamaica about 8, where we passed the night, and came to town next morning about 7, and I found my family all well.

In reference to a certain recent most calamitous domestic occurrence which has befallen you, it can scarcely be necessary for me to say that I most

feelingly sympathise with you in your affliction. These afflictions are the common lot of humanity, and are the necessary appendages of our most endearing enjoyments, and it is obviously true that the more endearing our domestic enjoyments, the more poignant is our grief at the loss of them. Under such afflictions, there is but one consideration which can have any rational and decisive influence in assuaging our feelings, and that is a well grounded hope that the loss of her whom we deplore has been her inestimable gain. Some time previous to the occurrence of that event, I was given to understand, in a very satisfactory and to me highly gratifying manner, that she was very sensibly alive to the all important realities of eternity, and that she had exhibited the most consoling evidence that, however her friends might regret her departure, yet that, to her, death was disarmed of its principal terrors, and that you had been most faithful in your endeavours to prepare her for the change that inevitably awaited her. I need not tell you, my dear Sir, how heartily welcome this intelligence was to me, how often I have thought of it since, and what unspeakable consolation I have no doubt it affords you in this season of affliction. There is in religion a reality which the world can neither confer nor

take away, and which we feel most sensibly and value most highly when called to mourn the loss of a near and most endearing relative. This comfort, unless I am greatly deceived, is yours, and it is the best, indeed, the only, comfort which it is in my power to offer you, and while on this subject, allow me to say to you in perfect sincerity, that it is one, on which I much more frequently reflect and feel, than speak or write, and one in which I feel and know that I have a deep and eternal interest at stake, about which I am much at a loss, as to my own situation, were I now to be called hence. While I see very many whose condition and future prospects I consider as far preferable to my own, I can scarcely name the individual to whom, in this respect, I view myself as fairly entitled to a preference. The truth is the best of us are but a wretched company of evil doers, and if we would but impartially look at ourselves, we should find much more to condemn in ourselves than in others. Sure I am that on this subject there is a very general mistake. On that great day of account, when the secrets of all hearts will be laid fully open to view, when there can be no deception, and no escape, many, perhaps very many, who have exhibited a very fair and decent exterior thro life, will be found wanting, while many of those who

have made far humbler claims, who have passed in silent tribulation thro life, will be found to be possessed of the one thing needful. But in making this remark, and drawing this contrast, I must be allowed to protest against any individual application of it. That belongs to God alone, and I hold it to be the height of impiety, and a direct usurpation of his unalienable sovereignty, to pronounce this man a saint and that a reprobate. Whoever wishes to deal in such opinions, let him first look at home. But I will not further enlarge on this subject. I beg you to remember me and my family most affectionately to your children, and believe me to remain,

Most affectionately your friend,

GEO. W. STRONG.

JOHN N. LLOYD, ESQ.

NOTE: This letter refers to the recent decease of Mrs. Lloyd.

LETTER OF NOV. 25, 1823.

Chancellor Kent's only son has recently entered our office as a student, which, so far as his opinion goes, I cannot but consider as rather a compliment.

LETTER OF DEC. 9, 1823.

I have this morning received your letter to Eloise, which has not yet been delivered, but which, I trust, will inform us how you are.

In taking my usual walk this morning with Eloise before breakfast, indeed while we saw the stars on the Battery, (it was prodigiously cold), the idea occurred to me that during the Holidays I should like very much to take a ride up to the Neck. Whether I shall be able to accomplish it or not, remains yet to be determined.

NEW YORK, 14 February, 1824.

MY DEAR SIR:

I certainly owe you an apology for my long neglect in answering your last letter. Judge Edwards' Court commenced on the third Monday of November last, and adjourns this day, and has been continued uninterruptedly since its commencement, except a few days during the Holidays. Having had 17 causes on the Calendar, and some of them very heavy ones, and having disposed of every one of them, you will readily perceive I have had employment enough. . . .

Tell John that George improves very rapidly in

reading. He is now reading Sandford and Merton in course, and goes from 6 to 10 pages a day. He has learnt to read with very singular facility. But as I have heretofore told you, I do not admire these precocious geniuses. I had rather see the mind mature gradually, and then its attainments may be confidently relied on. In this respect I think Eloise and George are perfectly at issue, and I confess I prefer the former.

My love to all, and believe me to be,

Yours sincerely,

GEO. W. STRONG.

JOHN N. LLOYD, ESQ.

NOTE: George Templeton Strong was born on January 26, 1820; John was Mr. Lloyd's eldest son, John Nelson Lloyd, Jr.

NEW YORK, 2d March, 1824.

MY DEAR SIR:

I have just received yours of the 28th ult°. I scarcely know whether I am pleased or otherwise at your determination to send me the mare. I should prefer her to any other horse I ever backed. But I fear that you wish to retain her, and that you part with her only from a disposition to oblige me. If she does not suit me, I shall not be less disappointed than yourself, and I promise in advance

that I will not censure you for it. I shall provide lodgings for her immediately, and shall await her arrival with some degree of impatience. I shall provide one saddle and bridle. But as I never in my life owned a horse or other quadruped, to my recollection, except it may be a dog, I am very ignorant on this subject. Am I to have a crupper and cloth to the saddle? I know not what you mean by a "bridoon," but presume a saddler can tell me. As to spurs, as I never used them, I must be allowed to dispense with them, and when I am once fixed, I shall make the jade carry me about ten miles every morning before breakfast, if my life and health are spared. I do this from dire necessity, of which I am fully convinced from long experience, and not from a desire to imitate great men, for you must know that the judges and lawyers in England (whose labors, even at the age of 70 and 80 years, Justice Park is now about 86, far exceeds that of any laborer on your farm), ride on horseback from 15 to 20 miles every day before breakfast, and then work until about 12 at night. Sir James Mansfield lately died one of the Judges, at the age of, I believe, 91. Lord Mansfield did not go on the Bench till after he was 60, and the imperishable fame which he acquired, and the immense benefit which he conferred upon

posterity by his decisions, were of course all after that age. He lived nearly twenty miles from London, and besides riding backwards and forwards every day, was in the almost daily habit of chasing foxes before breakfast. Now I wish to imitate these men only as to their means of preserving health. Beyond that I do not aspire.

We are all well, and beg kind remembrances to you and yours.

Yours very sincerely,

GEO. W. STRONG.

JOHN N. LLOYD, ESQ.

NEW YORK, 8th March, 1824.

MY DEAR SIR:

With your letter of the 1st Inst. I received from M^r Sammis the mare, and put her in a stable of a M^r Waters in Rector Street, just by my house. I have been on her back every morning since, before sunrise, and rode from 6 to 10 miles each time. . . . The exercise has already had a beneficial effect in divers ways. I am now engaged in a very tedious reference, in which we have had a great many meetings, and bid fair to have a great many more. They commence at 4 in the afternoon, and last till 10 and sometimes 12 at night. Before

I began to ride, I have been so beat out by 10 or 11 o. c. at night that I could scarcely stand up under it. But when we broke up last Saturday night, I was not fatigued at all, after a sitting which lasted uninterruptedly for more than 6 hours. This, in addition to the ordinary labor of the day from 8 till 4, you will perceive is pretty hard service, which calls for some bracing up. . . .

We are all well, and beg kind remembrances to yourself and family.

Yours very truly,

GEO. W. STRONG.

JOHN N. LLOYD, ESQ.

LETTER OF MAR. 27, 1824.

I have not yet read Judge Marshall's opinion on the steamboat question. It requires more time and attention than I can conveniently bestow upon it at present. I never heard much of Marshall as a lawyer till three or four months ago, when D. B. Ogden gave me his character in full, both as a man and a judge. I find that he is considered the first judicial character in this country, beyond all competition. He decides, *himself*, every *Constitutional* question that comes before the Court, his associ-

ates paying implicit deference to his opinion. He very seldom consults adjudged cases, but relies upon the resources of his own mind. This is certainly very dangerous in a Judge, unless his reasoning powers are altogether superior, and approximate the higher order of intelligence. He sometimes says to Story (who is a great book man, and as much so as Chancellor Kent), that he wants him to find for him a case establishing such a principle, telling him that he is sure that is the law, and Story says he always finds him correct. He gets up every morning at the dawn of day, and walks about four miles, meditating upon the case he is to decide. On his return he goes to his room, and there writes before breakfast his opinion upon the case, generally argued the preceding day. After breakfast he will go into Court and deliver it. He writes with astonishing expedition, and nearly as fast as one can read. The inclination of all his Constitutional decisions is to enlarge and extend the Constitution of the United States, and of course to abridge and fritter away State rights. The consequence is that the Court is getting very unpopular, particularly in some of the Western states. And another consequence is that all parties wishing to impair the State rights bring their suits in the Federal Courts. Judge Tod (one of the Sup.

Court Judges), says he has on his Calendar in Kentucky nine hundred cases now undisposed of, although he holds his Court there the greater part of his time. Marshall's private character is not less singular than his judicial is illustrious. He lives in Richmond, not only goes to market himself, but carries home his marketing himself. He is very often seen going along the streets with a basket or a large pumpkin on his head, . . . but possessing a most gigantic intellect, most thoroughly disciplined and extensively improved, and no way impaired by age.

Judge Edwards does pretty well, and much better than was anticipated. He is industrious and has evinced a thorough determination to keep down his Calendar.

This State never before had such a feeble, inefficient Supreme Court as the present. This Court is now the prominent defect of our Judicial system, and it seems to be now generally admitted, by all friends as well as foes, that this Court can not get along. The fault is wholly in the Judges, in their incompetency, and not in the organization of the Court, which is good, better than it was under the old Constitution. At the last term (which continued, and by law must continue, four weeks), there were 600 causes on the Calendar, and only

about 30 argued. At the next Term there will, as is expected, be about 1000 on the Calendar. The fault in the Judges is that, owing to their popularity seeking and their timidity, they let the lawyers do as they please. Our Circuit Judges are all young, inexperienced men, in whom the public have not much confidence, and the consequence is that a great many cases are carried from them into the Supreme Court, which has created the great mass of causes there now pending for decision.

Sanford carries into his Court all his characteristic caution. He decides no case till it has been fully argued, and then takes a long time to deliberate. All this is highly necessary on his part, for when he was appointed Chancellor he certainly knew very little of Chancery law.

NOTE. It may perhaps be worth a suggestion that possibly Mr. Lloyd had asked Mr. Strong how Judge Marshall compared with the New York Judiciary, and that this letter was in answer thereto. Mr. David B. Ogden had appeared with distinction before Chief Justice Marshall in 1820-21. (*Life of Marshall* by A. J. Beveridge, Vol. 4, pp. 345, 346, 357.)

LETTER OF APRIL 3, 1824.

A month having now expired, I believe I may venture to say that I consider the mare mine, and the \$200 yours, whenever you please to call or send for it, and as to which it is perfectly conven-

ient for me to pay it now, and any delay on your part will be no accommodation to me. I ask no abatement of the price, for I have asked no one to value the mare, and I am perfectly willing to allow that sum for her.

It would be a little singular if I should contract a strong attachment to horses, and yet I fear there is some danger of it. I have rode today nearly twenty miles. I got out of bed precisely at half past five. Besides dressing myself, I made a fire and the next time I looked at my watch it was five minutes past six, when I was opposite the Church at Bloomingdale. I ride every day when the weather will possibly permit, Sunday excepted. But I do it all before breakfast, and while I should otherwise be in bed, except Saturdays, when I take a short ride just before sunset. . . . I had almost forgotten the enclosed Letter from Eloise. I see it is in French, which, I have told her, I fear you will not understand. She says, however, that you do understand it, and that you desired her to write you such a letter.

LETTER OF APRIL 16, 1824.

I was in hopes by this time to see my way clear for making you a visit. But our Courts prevent

me, and I fear will continue to do so for some days yet to come. Next week I have a very interesting *Patent* cause coming on before Judge Thompson, in the Circuit Court of the United States. It is about a Patent for a *Metallic stop-back*. Staples of New Haven is to be here to take a part in the trial. On the one side are Emmet, Staples, Slosson and Law, and on the other, Colden, Griffin and myself. At least thirty witnesses are coming from New Haven, besides several from Philadelphia and Albany, and a host here in New York. I have often thought that this cause would be very interesting to Uncle Harry, would his sight enable him to see the component parts in detail of all the various backs which we have ready to exhibit, in order to show that the back in question is not the original invention of the Patentee. I think we shall defeat him almost to a certainty. While I have such a cause resting on my mind, you will readily perceive that going into the country on a jaunt of pleasure is utterly out of the question.

The cause of Udall and Kenney has been decided, and the decree of the Chancellor in Mr. Kenney's favor has been *unanimously* affirmed, except that the Court of Errors has allowed Dr. Udall the dividends on the stock to the date of the Chancellor's decree. The Chancellor allowed him

the dividends down to the time the bill was filed. This will give the D^r \$200 or 300 more, but which will be nothing like adequate to his expenses in the Court of Errors. I feel very much disposed on this occasion to say that the Senators were "perfect Solomons" in judgment.

LETTER OF AUG. 20, 1824.

The City during the present week has presented nothing but bustle and confusion, in consequence of the arrival of the Marquis La Fayette. Such another display was never witnessed here before, and it would seem as if the people could not honor him enough. I cannot really convey to you any adequate ideas on this subject, and must refer you to the papers for particulars. I had the honor of taking him by the hand yesterday. He is most emphatically the man of the People.

My rides to and from Jamaica are extremely delightful, more so than those I formerly took on York Island.

LETTER OF OCT. 20, 1824.

I begin by the time it is clearly light, and I ride at least an hour. I have, however, changed my

rides, so that I now confine them entirely to the populous parts of the City. I have rode out of town till I have become disgusted with the roads, from long familiarity with them. In town I find variety enough. I select the new parts of the City, and those with which I am the least acquainted, such as around Coerlear's Hook, through the Bowery, Greenwich, and the intermediate streets between it and Broadway. I had no adequate conception before of the extent of the city. This plan, if my life is spared, I intend to pursue till I become perfectly familiar with every part of the city. I not only learn the streets, their situations and bearings, but the public buildings and improvements, which, with the very fine weather, renders my present rides more interesting than at any former period. There are perhaps about 50 miles of streets through the thickly settled part of the City, and it will take me a good while to become so familiar with them as to carry them in my mind's eye. The information itself will be useful to me, and I feel an ambition (perhaps rather silly, as all ambition generally is), to become better acquainted with the geography of the City than any other person in it, and I am now in a fair way to succeed.

LETTER OF MAY 9, 1825.

I have received your letter of the 7th Inst., enclosing \$175, being M^r. Gould's rent due on the 1st of April last. I do not care anything about his paying at present the money which he owes me. I had however been led to expect it by the first of May, and calculated accordingly. I have however got along without it, and do not therefore now need it. By the by, money is now much in demand here. It will readily command 7 per cent. I however decline receiving more than 6. I think we shall soon have failures here in abundance. We have got speculation mad again. In Boston the pressure is very heavy and extensive.

LETTER OF NOV. 23, 1825.

I should like to say a few things to you on the subject of fame, but I have time only to remark that the fame of most lawyers is literally not worth having, and that Lord Mansfield's idea on the subject is the only true one, viz: "that which follows, not that which is run after," and among the great mass of lawyers, where you find one whose fame survives him for any length of time, you will find 10,000 whose corse and fame are

interred together in the same grave. If, when I am gone, the world will tell my children that I was an honest man, it will be full as much as I deserve, and all that I ask. I am very happy to hear that you propose soon to come down here, and I hope you will so arrange matters as to stay at my house.

NEW YORK, 6th Jany. 1826.

MY DEAR SIR:

I am in receipt of your interesting letter of the 30th ulto. I well remember the visit to which you refer, and almost every incident of it is as fresh in my recollection as if it had occurred only yesterday. On our way up, which was by water (Strong Conklin, Master), we came to at Huntington Gut, waiting for the tide, went ashore on the Neck, took tea at your Uncle's, and got to your Mama's between 10 & 11. That was the first time I ever set my foot on Lloyd's Neck. . . .

Yours very sincerely,

GEO. W. STRONG.

JOHN N. LLOYD, ESQ.

LETTER OF JAN. 13, 1826.

I feel a little anxious to have the wood Account closed as soon as may be convenient, for I am dis-

gusted with the sight of my children's accounts in the manner in which for the last four years I have been necessarily compelled to keep them. With regard to their maternal estate I wish to do them ample justice, and should their and my lives be spared till they reach 21, and I meet with no disasters in the investment of their property, I should wish my accounts to exhibit a salutary example to those who may thereafter have the controul of it. With a capital at the beginning of about \$2300 in 1819, I should be gratified to live to see what it will amount to in 1831, when Eloise will come of age. It certainly will be no great affair, but it may perhaps be useful to shew what may be done by constant safe and prudent investments.

NEW YORK, 18th March, 1826.

MY DEAR SIR:

. . . George is now quite seriously indisposed, having some fever and a very disordered stomach. I called in D^r Post this morning to see him. H was highly gratified with your message. But you give him credit for more than he is entitled to, he being past 6 instead of 5 years. It, however, cannot be denied (making all due allowances for parental partiality), that his attainments are very

unusual for one of his years. This is attributable to no extraordinary capacity on his part, but solely to the manner in which he is instructed by his mother. He first reads, and instead of committing it to memory, it is made the subject of conversation till he perfectly understands what he has read, and which he usually repeats to me when I come home. He is now reading, and has nearly completed, the history of the American Revolution, and it is literally true that he knows and has at his command more facts connected with it than I do. The consequence is that he has lost all his relish for steam boats, and talks principally about being a soldier. If, however, he inherits any of his father's disposition, I have but little fear that he will take up arms as his profession, should his life be spared.

Have you and Mr. Mott closed your bargain? And if so, if it be no secret, what is the price? I think you do well in selling rather than buying. Suppose you get even \$3,000, how could you make \$180 per annum off of the whole farm? I am persuaded that money well secured on loan is, on the whole, the most profitable investment that can be made, and this leads me to make one remark more (which is rather wandering from the subject), viz., that the modern notion of abolishing usury laws, and which I believe our Legislature will adopt, is

one of the most pernicious principles that ever entered the head of a Legislator. Let men say and write what they please, I shall never cease to believe (until convinced by actual observation to the contrary), that it is impossible for this community to get along without the aid of usury laws. All that I have seen written on the subject serves only to convince me that the writers do not understand the subject. They look at only isolated cases, without tracing out the principle in all its ramifications, as exemplified in its practical operations. I can put hundreds of cases of daily occurrence in which one of three things must take place; 1st, either there must be a law prohibiting excess of interest, 2nd, or a Court of Chancery must without such a law interfere upon general principles, and grant relief on the ground of unconscientious bargains, or, 3rd, the distressed and necessitous must incessantly fall victims to the overreaching cupidity of the rich. I can have no patience with the advocates of this new fangled doctrine, and altho the law will probably have no effect upon me, either favorably or otherwise, yet I cannot but feel for others, and reprobate the stupidity of its advocates.

Yours very truly,

GEO. W. STRONG.

JOHN N. LLOYD, ESQ.

NEW YORK, 16th June, 1826.

MY DEAR SIR:

I have received your letters of the 10th and 11th Inst. I shall follow your advice and keep the mare. I know not where I could procure another which would suit me as well. . . .

Mary and George have been drooping for some time, occasioned probably by the heat. They and their mother are now at board at Whitestone near Flushing bay. Last Tuesday I took them to Norwalk in the John Marshall, and landed them at Whitestone on our return. I have left them this morning and they are much better. All they required was country air. . . . Eloise is keeping house for me and goes to school. She will go with me to Whitestone tomorrow evening, and return on Monday morning. . . .

Remember me kindly to your family, and believe me to continue,

Yours very sincerely,

GEO. W. STRONG.

JOHN N. LLOYD, ESQ.

LETTER OF JULY 28, 1826.

You never saw the like to what is daily passing in Wall street. Such another set of gamblers were never congregated before. I know of several in-

dividuals who hold from \$40,000 to \$60,000 of Life and Fire bonds now not worth a cent, individuals, too, very prudent, retired from business, and who, in making the investments, considered themselves as perfectly safe. No one can say how . . . stands now. His credit and character are entirely gone. The public indignation against him is very strong and general.

How shall I contrive to get my girls to your house? I would come myself with great pleasure, but I cannot leave here at present.

LETTER OF AUG. 3, 1826.

I believe you are now fully apprised of my views. If *Heaves* are catching, I have no wish to *inoculate* your horses. But if compelled to give her away, (which I should do in preference to selling her for a small sum, say \$20 or \$30), I should give you the preference, if inclined to take her. Whether she is *curable* or not I cannot say, nor whether her disease will prevent her breeding. I am very sorry to part with her, but on this subject my mind is made up, and sooner than part with her to a person who would maltreat her, I would hire some person to shoot her. I do not well see how I can suspend my system of riding for any length of time, and should

like to make some arrangement as soon as may be. I still continue to ride the mare, and have been out with her this morning.

LETTER OF OCTOBER 31, 1826.

I regret that James has gone to jail. I fully anticipated this result till you expressed a confident opinion, or rather Gould, that the money would be raised in Huntington. But I have often found people talk very *big* till the matter arrived to the point of putting their hands into their pocket, when all of a sudden they flinch.

I for my own part feel unwilling to continue James in jail, and should prefer letting him out. The terms upon which he is to come out you will make agreeable to yourself, and I will abide by them. I shall also be ready and willing to meet my share of the expense. You may find some difficulty in getting him out without a written authority from Mr. McCoun, the lawyer.

NOTE: Conklin Gould was Mr. Strong's and his daughters' tenant-farmer on Lloyd's Neck, and a neighbour of Mr. Lloyd's.

LETTER OF DEC. 26, 1826.

Time does indeed pass rapidly away, and makes sad havoc as it goes. We were, as it were yester-

day, boys, we are now middle-aged, and, should our lives be spared, we shall very soon be old men. . . . Enclosed I hand you a letter from Eloise, in French, which if you can read, you can do more than I can. My boy George grows more and more fond of books. Perhaps I should not exceed the truth, although I might incur the imputation of parental partiality, were I to say he is the most learned boy of his age of any in this city. He studies reading, writing, history and botany with his mother, astronomy and grammar under Eloise, and Latin under me. Brother Thomas has recently been here, and considers him a perfect prodigy in learning, but he will be good for nothing else.

NEW YORK, 6th April, 1827.

MY DEAR SIR:

. . . I feel as if I ought to mention a subject of some delicacy to you, and it must be in confidence, so far that you will be very careful what use you make of it. For something like a year past it has been intimated to me that my student, Mr. . . . was partially deranged. The intimation came from his fellow students. I have watched him very narrowly, but could discover nothing to countenance the supposition, except that latterly he has

fallen off very much in his studies, and appears to have lost most that he has learned. He was to take his examination next May, and I have doubted much whether I ought not to advise him to defer his examination, lest he might be turned by. He has, however, latterly left the office, and I am this morning told that he has gone in the country, (probably home), and that such has been his deportment where he has lodged as to impress his fellow boarders with the belief that he is deranged.

I am at a loss to act in this matter. Had I been previously satisfied that such was the fact, I would have immediately communicated it to his father. It may be that his parents have no suspicions of it, and to say anything about it may be doing him a lasting injury, should the fact turn out otherwise. I have therefore, heretofore, cautiously abstained from saying or intimating anything on the subject. I am anxious to learn whether he has gone home; although I am now not fully satisfied that he is deranged, yet I greatly fear that he is. Should you hear anything on the subject, I beg you to communicate it to me. I know it is asking too much, but if you had an inclination to take a ride to Dosoris about this time, I wish you would go.

Yours truly,

GEO. W. STRONG.

NEW YORK, 6th July, 1827.

MY DEAR SIR:

I write you a few words by your son, John, to thank you for his visit, and to say that he has conducted himself very well. The poor boy almost perished the day he came down from the excessive heat, and the crowded state of the stage, and when he got to my house he was almost overcome with fatigue. He had no appetite, and a violent headache. Last night he went to the Theatre, and this evening he has gone to the Circus. Perhaps it is right and proper that he should visit such places *once*, but this morning he complained bitterly of the headache. He confesses that he should pass his time more agreeably at home at work. But I leave him to tell his own story to you, and I have no doubt he will have enough to relate of what he has seen and heard. The girls and I left Whitestone yesterday morning, and shall return there again tomorrow evening. We are all well and beg kind regards.

Yours truly,

GEO. W. STRONG.

JOHN N. LLOYD, ESQ.

LETTER OF JULY 20, 1827.

Eloise is at present my housekeeper in which new situation she acquits herself very much to my

satisfaction. I am much pleased with her in this respect, as it is indicative of future usefulness, should her life be spared.

NEW YORK, 20th August, 1827.

MY DEAR SIR:

Yours of the 18th Inst. is just received, and for your solicitude about my recent illness I feel much obliged.

I have indeed been sick, and more so than I ever was before. I was confined to the house just one week. What was precisely the matter with me I cannot say. Dr. Post, from his treatment, appeared to apprehend something serious, but what he did not say. My difficulty was in my head, and my belief is it was produced by the excessive hot weather which we have had. Be that as it may, I feel, deeply feel, the force of what you say. I consider an entire change in my course of life as indispensable, and I began it as soon as I got out again, and which may be indicated in general by *universal moderation*. . . .

I know I have laboured too hard both bodily and mentally. This, I hope, has not proceeded from a love of filthy lucre, but rather from a disposition to do, and to do properly, such professional business as has been confided to me. I now

want a little relaxation, but how to take it I know not, as I am almost entirely alone, every clerk being off in the country and business very pressing. I intend, however, this week to break off and go to the Catskill Mountains, and next week I hope to come and see you and bring the girls with me.

We are all well, and beg kind remembrances to you and yours.

Yours truly,

GEO. W. STRONG.

LETTER OF SEPT. 21, 1827.

You have, as I understand the matter, the right without my permission, and at any rate you shall have the permission without the right, to cart your wood across the meadows. On my own account, I certainly do not want, nor do I desire, the money you refer to, and yet I am very glad that you propose to pay it off. Every man knows his own business best, but I confess I should not like to hire money in the expectation of making more than the interest. Although, therefore, I do not want the money, and feel perfectly confident that I cannot place it where it will be more safe, or where the interest will be paid with more punctuality, or less trouble to myself, yet I must be allowed to repeat

that I am glad to hear you say you mean to pay it off. . . . It may possibly appear to you a little strange why I write thus to you. But my reason is simply that I have an absolute abhorrence of paying interest, and I cannot withhold from those in whose welfare I take a real interest, a part at least of the same feeling.

LETTER OF NOV. 5, 1827.

I have no doubt whatever that you perfectly well understand your own business, and that you attend very strictly to your own interest. I know of very few men who, in my estimation, exceed you in this respect. I intended in my previous letter to have said that, as a general rule, I disliked hiring money with a view to investing it in some other way, by which it could be made to produce more than interest. I know that with new beginners, without capital, this is sometimes unavoidable. But *very often* calculations of this kind prove fallacious. The point of my objection is this—that it subjects the borrower to a *double risk*. He has to pay at all events, and if he loses on the reinvestment he is without redress. This consideration has induced me to lay it down as a general rule,

from which I never deviate, viz., to avoid being in debt, and to invest only surplus, and to invest it but in one way, viz., loan. Pursuing this plan, the amount accumulates gradually and progressively, and having but one object in view, every successive receipt of money is made contributory to it. This simple statement discloses the whole secret to which I am indebted for what little property I am worth. I mention it to you because I know you are a very competent judge on the subject, and because, if you approve of it, I should like to have you adopt it.

LETTER OF DEC. 28, 1827.

In one of your former letters you asked me my opinion of Mr. Webster. I did not hear him. But he is unquestionably a first rate man. As a lawyer, I should rank him the first in this country, and so I understand he is rated by the Supreme Court of the United States. Is it not a little singular that very great men, in all ages and countries, should generally utterly neglect their moneyed concerns. I am told that in this respect Mr. W. is a perfect child, that he neither understands nor pays any attention to his private affairs, and is consequently most deeply embarrassed.

NEW YORK, 31st Dec., 1827.

MY DEAR SIR:

Yours of yesterday is received, and having finished my labors for the year 1827, I will indulge myself in writing a few lines to you. You mistake my former letter if you infer from it that I think Mr. Webster's greatness consists in his *law knowledge*. I think far differently. Chancellor Kent, Judge Story, and men of that class, are *great* for their law knowledge. C. J. Marshall is and C. J. Parsons, Mr. Pinkney and Mr. Wells were, *great* in another sense, that is, in their arguments they relied not so much on books as on the resources of their own minds. Greatness in this latter sense is esteemed *greater* than that in the former. Take almost any case, either of law or fact, and if all that is said on it be taken from the books, it will cut but a sorry figure. I suppose Chancellor Kent could cite offhand 50 cases to Webster's one on any given subject, and yet, before either Court or Jury, the odds in favor of Webster would be great indeed. . . .

I felt a little gratified by an occurrence which came to my knowledge some time ago, and, as I am probably indebted to you for it, and as it concerns a near relative whom you highly value, I will mention it to you, but in the strictest confidence, for

upon no other condition should I feel justified in alluding to it. It seems that your kinsman, the Hon. Mr. James Lloyd, has conceived the idea that this city is to become the vast emporium of this part of the world, and he has accordingly determined to invest a large amount of his capital in the purchase of real estate in the upper parts of the city, say in Broadway, about Bond Street. He has instructed his agent or broker to that effect, and in his letter he states that he shall require, as an indispensable condition in every case, my written opinion as to the title. You will at once perceive that this is placing me under pretty heavy professional responsibility. I am at a loss to conceive how I have acquired his confidence, for I have never exchanged a word with him since I was a student in Yale College. However, I will not abuse his confidence, and I mean to take special care that the event shall not show that it was misplaced. We all know he understands his own interests perfectly well, and it struck me with a little surprise that he should entrust such an important measure to a person about whom he can know nothing, except from the representation of others. How far he may find his expectations of profit realised, I am at a loss to say. In the immediate neighborhood of where he is buying, a person three

years ago refused to give \$5,000 for a lot which he has since paid \$11,000 for. On the other hand, Mr. Lloyd's agent has recently bought a lot for \$8,000, which some months ago was sold for \$9,000. At a venture, if I had his money I would invest it at six per cent on unquestionable bonds and mortgages, in preference to this speculation. However, what I say to you on this subject you must consider entirely confidential, and perhaps I have done wrong in alluding to it at all.

With my best wishes to yourself and children, of many happy returns of this congratulatory season, I remain,

Yours truly,

GEO. W. STRONG.

JOHN N. LLOYD, ESQ.

NOTE: James Lloyd, Jr., L.L.D., grandson of Henry Lloyd and Rebecca Nelson Lloyd, the great-grandparents of John Nelson Lloyd, was a graduate of Harvard in the class of 1787, and U. S. Senator from Massachusetts in 1808 and again in 1822. He was a nephew of Margaret Lloyd (the mother of Anna Smith, wife of Judge Selah Strong), and first cousin, once removed, of John Nelson Lloyd. He resided at this time in Philadelphia.

LETTER OF JAN. 18, 1828.

I recollect your mentioning to me, some time ago, the circumstance of John's dog killing your

sheep. I thought then, as I think now, that your views were not quite correct.

At common law, the owner of a mischievous animal is not responsible for any injury it may do, unless it be proved that, previous to the injury, the owner *knew* of the vicious propensity of the animal. Thus my dog kills your sheep. At common law, I am not liable to you, unless you can show that, previous to that act, I knew that such was the habit of my dog. This is perfectly well settled law, and such were the evil consequences resulting from it, as applied to dogs killing sheep, that the Legislature, two years ago, interfered, and altered the common law in this respect, so as to subject the owner of the dog to damages for killing sheep, whether he knew of the vicious propensity of the dog or not, provided the owner of the sheep killed procured a written certificate of two fence viewers of the town in which he resides, that the sheep had been killed by a dog, and stating their value. Now I fear you are deficient both as to your common law and statute remedy. As to the first, that you cannot bring home to John what we term the *scienter*, that is, that he knew the vicious propensity of his dog, and, secondly, that you have not obtained the certificate of the fence-viewers, and cannot now obtain it, as it is to be granted

only on a view of the dead sheep. Such are the intricacies and quirks of the law. This, however, I cannot help. You ask me for my opinion, and I must serve you as I serve anybody else, that is, give it frankly, whether unfavorable or favorable.

NOTE: "John" was perhaps John Cogswell and a cousin of Mr. Lloyd's.

NEW YORK, 12th Feb'y, 1828.

MY DEAR SIR:

Yours of the 6th is duly received. You have probably seen by the newspapers the death of Mrs. Templeton. She died on the 8th instant, after an illness of only a few days. It is difficult to say what her complaint was. It appeared to be a sudden decay of all her powers of life. She has left her daughters very disconsolate, and I was for a short time after her dissolution very apprehensive as to the effect of it upon her youngest daughter, Jane. . . . We are all well, except Mrs. Strong, who feels her affliction most acutely, and beg kind remembrances to you and your family.

Yours truly,

GEO. W. STRONG.

NEW YORK, 28th Mar., 1828.

MY DEAR SIR:

Since writing the enclosed, Mrs. Strong has lost her Aunt Barton, who died on Tuesday last of old age, without any apparent indisposition, and without any previous indication of her approaching dissolution, except for about 24 hours. She was upwards of 90 years of age. She was the eldest of seven brothers and sisters, all of whom she survived. She retained her mental faculties unimpaired to the day preceding her death, when she lost the power of speech, and down to that period had the sole control of her pecuniary affairs, and managed the same, through a long life, with great prudence and success.

Yours very truly,

GEO. W. STRONG.

JOHN N. LLOYD, ESQ.

NOTE: Mrs. Barton was the sister of Mrs. Oliver Templeton, whose decease is mentioned in the preceding letter. Both these ladies were daughters of Dr. William (Massey) Brownejohn and Mary Page Brownejohn. Mrs. Templeton was the mother of the second wife of George W. Strong. Mrs. Templeton's other children were Gulielma, Olivia and Jane, all of whom died unmarried, and Maria, who married William Johnson. Mrs. Barton was married to Lieutenant Colonel Barton, stationed at Staten Island and New York, with the English Army, in the Revolution. His Order-book, of the orders daily issued from Head-quarters (containing a reference to Major André, and to Lord Cornwallis and others), is still in existence, in the possession of the present editor. Dr. Brownejohn's name will be found in a lecture on "The Coaches of Colonial New York," delivered before the New

York Historical Society by George W. W. Houghton in 1890, at p. 25. He is said to have owned much land in New York City, South of Wall St.

LETTER OF MARCH 17, 1828.

You have doubtless seen in the newspapers a great deal about the "law's delay," in this city. The noise that has been made about it has led to a law, (not yet passed, but which it is understood will pass), for the creation of a new Court in this city, which will require four members, that is, three judges and one Vice-Chancellor. Where the timber is to come from, it is difficult to say. That of a good quality and of domestic growth will be required, but, to be frank with you, my name has been mentioned among others. I have uniformly thought the law would not pass, and have said I would have nothing to do with office, but as the law will now in all probability pass, I have thought more seriously on the subject, and, all things considered, I have made up my mind that, should one of these offices be offered to me, I will not accept it. There is no real inducement to accept office in this country. The pay is too small. There is no official dignity. The duties are very laborious. The incumbent becomes a slave, is dependent,

not on the *will* merely, but the *caprice* of the people. On the whole I say, once for all, I will remain as I am. Say nothing about this.

LETTER OF MARCH 24, 1828.

You know probably that Governor Clinton and Judge Edwards were deadly hostile to each other. I have always thought that Clinton's letter to him was written with a most malignant spirit, and I must say I think Edwards' answer was full and satisfactory. Clinton admits that a power of suspending the execution in extreme cases must rest somewhere, and he thinks it belongs to the Sheriff. But surely the Court who tried the criminal, and know all the testimony, must be presumed more competent judges in this respect than the Sheriff, who is not presumed to know anything about the matter. I do not know a judicial officer in this State who has rendered himself so unpopular as Judge Edwards. I understand that several leading members of the Senate are anxious to impeach him. His dilatory manner of doing business has given rise to the project of a new Court. But he is an honest man, and the great objection to him is that he is not a man of business.

My plan for life has been determined upon for years. Should my life be spared till my income will yield me a comfortable support, I intend to change my mode of business. Hitherto I have worked for a subsistence, adding my income to my capital, and a little more. When that income is an adequate support, I mean to depend upon it, do business for the sake of employment, and add the proceeds of it to my capital. I have no doubt that in this way I can be useful. I should, of course, decline all business in which I did not like to embark. But thus far my professional life has been very much that of a slave, and I look forward with some impatience to the time when I can relax. I hope less than five years will bring me to that period. But as to office, I want and will have *none*. . . . A private station, with a competent income, a good library of books, and business enough for employment, is infinitely preferable.

NOTE: In the passage indicated by points, Mr. Strong mentions the Hon. Samuel Jones, who, as Chancellor, in 1826-28, preceded Chancellor Walworth, and adverts to certain difficulties in his situation.

LETTER OF APRIL 10, 1828.

I expect the pleasure of seeing you here on or before the first of May, and must insist on more of

your time at my house than you have latterly extended to me. I will see that the Deed is duly prepared by that time for your execution. As Mr. Howard is to pay you in cash the purchase money, I do not know what disposition you propose to make of it. If you mean to apply it, or rather a part of it, towards the debt of my daughters or myself, I should like to be apprised of it a short time previous. At the same time, I wish you distinctly to understand that I have no wish whatever that it should be so applied, as I am under no subsisting engagement that would call for it. Money, however, is now very much wanted in this City, and any amount can be invested in Bond and Mortgage with entire safety at 6 or perhaps 7 per cent. Six satisfies all my desires, and I sincerely hope I may never live to see the day when I shall want more. Do, therefore, just as you please about it, as I am entirely content it should remain where it is, just as long as you want it.

LETTER OF MAY 23d, 1828.

The Courts are now crowding upon us, and I am very much hurried. You have no conception what a strong inclination I have for a little relaxa-

tion and repose. The situation of one of your hired men is enviable, when compared with mine. I intend, if I possibly can, to come up after Eloise.

LETTER OF SEPT. 29, 1828.

I certainly did expect to pay you a visit with my family before this. We intended to go to Montaug Point, stopping at the Neck either the one way or the other. But the very alarming accounts of sickness on Long Island prevented us. From the accounts which I have heard of the sickness at Jamaica, Newtown and the Hempsteads, I would much prefer taking my chance in this City during the Yellow Fever, than at either of those places. Jamaica is nearly depopulated, and John Tredwell tells me it is travelling Eastward. He has had two deaths in his family, and, according to his account, there is scarcely a family in his vicinity free from sickness. We therefore concluded to change our route. Week before last, all my family, (except Eloise, who would not go on account of her terror of steamboats), and myself, went to Connecticut, visiting New Haven, Middletown, Wethersfield, Huntington &c., and returned home yesterday week. We had a very agreeable excursion. Eloise

stayed with her Aunt Templetons. A visit on Long Island, at the present time, I should consider extremely unsafe. I hope, however, to make one in the course of the Fall, and to call on you.

Eloise is now engaged in taking lessons on the Guitar and in drawing. She attends each week day except Saturday. I have lately purchased her a handsome Piano Forte at \$260. She has improved very much in drawing, and I intend, if she lives, that she shall do a piece for you.

LETTER OF DEC. 6, 1828.

My George has at last commenced going to school in good earnest. The third day he got head of his class. His ambition is highly excited, and he has begun upon the *high pressure principle*. I consider this a great point gained in regard to his future prospects in life.

LETTER OF DEC. 26, 1828.

Eloise has finished the landscape for you, and the same has been framed and boxed and sent to M^r White's store, where it now is waiting an opportunity to be sent to you. It is too large, I think, to go by stage, and I am not acquainted

with any of the Huntington or Cold Spring boatmen, at least with those who are known to be careful. Will you speak to some one, and ask him either to send to the store for it, or to let me know, and I will send it on board his vessel.

I shall have, my good Sir, in the course of a day or two, to draw upon your goodness so far as to ask you to go to Huntington and see Judge Potter, in relation to a certain controversy now pending in the State of Ohio between the representatives of the deceased General Cummings, late of Newark, and the representatives of the deceased General Schenck, late of Ohio, (son of the late Parson Schenck).

LETTER OF JAN. 10, 1829.

Next Monday, the trial of Mr. Coles for the property on Broadway comes on. Never was there a *clearer* case, and scarcely ever was there one better or more thoroughly prepared. If Col. Burr does not get signally defeated this time, I shall be disappointed and mortified most sorely.

LETTER OF JAN. 26, 1829.

Mr. Coles' cause has been tried, and, as I anticipated, resulted in a complete discomfiture of the

enemy. The Court would not hear the evidence through, on the part of the plaintiff, and the Jury, without leaving their seats, returned a verdict in our favor. Mr. Coles is highly gratified at the result, more especially as it is against Col. Burr, who, you may have heard, is celebrated for ripping up old titles, as to which it is certainly true that he has heretofore been remarkably successful. Mr. Coles is now in full possession again of the premises, *according to law*, and by way of inflicting a little punishment upon his adversary, I prohibited him from taking away his board fence, which he, of course, loses, besides a pretty heavy bill of costs.

LETTER OF FEB. 13, 1829.

We have now a project on foot to get a Vice-Chancery Court for this City. It would be a great benefit, but I fear it will not succeed. I am one of a Committee to correspond with the Governor about it. He is in favor of it, but, strange to tell, it is shrewdly suspected that his influence with the Legislature is already paralyzed. He has been defeated in several favorite projects. I have omitted to say anything to you about . . . the late Attorney General of the State, and brother

of . . . He has resided for a year or two in this City. He has latterly given himself up completely, soul and body, to drunkenness. He does no business, and is seldom seen out. You have no idea of him. Such men as Chancellor Kent, Daniel Webster of Boston and David B. Ogden of this City, say of him that he possesses the best legal head of any man they ever came in contact with.

You will pay me just as much and just as little money as you please, only let me know the probable amount and time, about one month beforehand.

My health is very good. Every afternoon about 5 o. c. I leave my office, and walk up to Eighth Street and back, let the weather be what it may.

LETTER OF MARCH 5, 1829.

. . . resigned as Attorney-General in the course of the last summer. He has gone to Washington, to argue the cause of the Sailors' Snug Harbor. When the cause was tried here, he did it most complete justice. . . . When the Court of Errors sat here last summer, he was engaged for De Peyster to argue his cause with Clarkson, about which a good deal has been said in the papers. . . . had the post of honor assigned to him, that is, to speak last. His adversary concluded his

argument by remarking to the Court that to examine and understand the papers and accounts correctly was a most *Herculean* task. When he sat down, . . . who was most lordly drunk at the time, and who, when he is so, looks the fool as completely as you ever saw one, got up and said that this was the first time he ever heard that *Hercules* was a mathematician, and, after adding that the case was too plain for argument, he sat down again. His client lost the cause, and poor . . . gave a stab to his reputation that he will never get over. . . . The right of fishery in navigable waters resides in the sovereignty, in England in the King, with us in the People. We have never recognized the Indians as sovereigns. The utmost effect that we have ever given to their grants is to convey the soil. The claim of fishery, therefore, as derived from them, could not be sustained.

NOTE: The latter part of this letter refers to Mr. Lloyd's attempt to protect the oyster-flats adjacent to Lloyd's Neck against depredators, and the matter is extensively referred to in these letters.

LETTER OF JUNE 12, 1829.

I am very sorry to hear the disaster that befell Mr. . . . last Saturday. Pray write me soon

and let me know how he is. What are his circumstances? Is he supplied with the ordinary comforts of life? If not, let me know it, and I will send you some money for him, or, if his necessities are urgent, supply them forthwith and I will refund. I should consider \$50 or \$100 spent in this way, if really necessary, by no means improvidently laid out.

NEW YORK, 10th July, 1829.

MY DEAR Sir:

Your letter of the 10th ult^o has remained longer unanswered than either my inclination or propriety would justify. But the drudgery of my business admits of but very little time to devote to anything else. Last Saturday, being a holiday, I set apart to a particular piece of business, which took me from 9 in the morning to ½ past 10 at night, and last Monday I was in Court from 10 in the morning till after 12 at night. I mention these as samples of my occupation. You will ask, as many others do, why I thus apply myself. The only true answer which I can give is, that it is not usual for Lawyers to decline business when offered, nor is it honest in them either to neglect it, or turn it over to clerks, when they have undertaken it, and yet my health was never better. I presume I have not felt as

strong and free from headache, indigestion, &c., for the last 10 years as I have thus far this season. This I attribute to a total change in my exercise. Instead of riding early in the morning on horseback as formerly, and which was often followed by excessive fatigue and lassitude during the rest of the day, I ride in a waggon from $\frac{1}{2}$ past 5 till $\frac{1}{2}$ past 7 in the afternoon, whenever I can find time. . . .

I intend if possible to see you in the course of next month. But the difficulty of my leaving town is very much increased by our new Court, whose terms are from the first Monday to the last Saturday in each month. This, you will perceive, is something all the time, and altho I am far from having a cause tried every day, yet it is necessary to keep a watchful eye from day to day. For business is hurried in that Court at a great rate indeed. It opens at 9 in the morning, continues till half past 2, when there is a recess of 2 hours, and then opens again, and often sits while after 12, the rule being that no new cause shall be commenced after 9. In this hot season, this is enough to kill Judges, Lawyers, Jurors and parties. But such is the present order of things. The popular clamor lately was the delays of Justice, and surely there was ground for it. Now the cry is reversed, that justice

is too summary. So true it is, that one extreme will follow another.

But I fear I shall fatigue you with details in which you cannot be supposed to take a very deep interest, but which it is right you should know in order to remove any suspicion of neglect on my part.

My best regards to your family, and believe me to remain,

Yours very truly,

GEO. W. STRONG.

JOHN N. LLOYD, ESQ.

LETTER OF OCT. 2, 1829.

The truth is that during the late vacation of our Courts, either M^r Griffin or Eloise was absent from Town nearly the whole of the time, and I am very much perplexed with a certain suit in Chancery against the Fire Department in this City, which leads to the examination of most of the Firemen in the City. Their Depositions are all taken in writing, and for at least the last month, and probably for more than a month to come, I have devoted and shall be obliged to devote at least 5 evenings in the week to the examination of witnesses. This makes a great inroad upon my other business, and calls for the diligent improvement of all my time.

Eloise, as you may perceive by her letter, was highly delighted with her late excursion. She has formed a good many acquaintances, and I think I perceive in her a very strong inclination for company. She is indulged in this respect full as much as I wish her to be. It is very natural that she should have such inclinations, and my only fear is that they may be carried too far. M^{rs} Strong visits but very little, and she appears disposed to let Eloise make up for her deficiencies. As for my own part, I have long since abandoned the idea of visiting at all. I go where my business calls me, and nowhere else. My brother Benjamin's daughters manifest a strong disposition to lead Eloise into company, and I sometimes fear she may become too fond of it. If, in your letters to her, you could make some allusions to this subject, with the view to her adopting a proper medium, you may render her a valuable service.

LETTER OF JAN. 22, 1830.

By the way, I must be excused for bragging a little about George. At the close of the last year he took the first premium in his school, and the boy who took the second was 15 years old. George will be 10 next Monday.

LETTER OF JUNE 7, 1830.

I do not know how far your "honorable" relative, of Philadelphia, makes you a confidant. If not already apprised of it, you will in due time hear something about him that will agreeably surprise you. All that I happen to know is professional, and, of course, must be kept to myself, especially as I perceive from his letter to his friends here, that he desires it may be kept a secret for the present, and complains that it had already leaked out, and which he very unceremoniously attributes to his friend, Prime. As I know you to be very careful about alluding to what you hear, I am persuaded you will make no improper use of what is above stated. In the letter above referred to, and which I do not believe he intended that I should see, he remarks that I am already under obligations to him without knowing it, for that it was at his instance that my name was inserted as one of the Associates in the Charter of the Life & Trust Company, which entitled me to 100 shares of stock at par. The fact is that, although thus entitled, I declined taking any of the stock, as I have seen so much iniquity practised by stock operations in this city. I fear, therefore, if he ever knows the fact, that he will conclude that I very slightly esteem his favors.

LETTER OF SEPT. 3, 1830.

I never saw your father's unexecuted will. All that I know or ever heard about it was from my father. I recollect that when I was a boy, and he belonged to the Senate, I heard him say that your mother had sent for him to inquire whether he thought he could procure the passage of a law through the Legislature to establish it, and that he told her it was utterly impossible.

LETTER OF MARCH 11, 1831.

I do not apprehend any danger arising from the refusal of this State to appear to the suit of New Jersey in the Supreme Court. It was nothing more than a freak of M^r Attorney General Bronson, assumed, I presume, in consequence of an intimation from the Secretary of State. But the Court having now formally decided that they have jurisdiction, I cannot believe that our State will stand out any longer. Should they, however, do so, it will be not much better than an act of open rebellion against the general Government.

With regard to Eloise, you may make your mind perfectly easy. She will do whatever I advise for

her own good. When Mary arrives at majority, should I then be living, I have no doubt this matter will be adjusted to the approbation of all parties.

LETTER OF MARCH 28, 1831.

You and I agree exactly about Governor Throop's late communication to the Legislature. It looks the most like *Nullification* of any official document I have ever seen. For a man who, a few years ago, was scarcely a reputable Common Pleas lawyer, to be sitting in judgment upon the solemn decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, delivered by C. J. Marshall, outrages all decency. It out-Herods Herod. It shows more subserviency to Van Buren than I ever thought Throop would be guilty of. I also agree with you that this same Van Buren is a more dangerous man than ever Aaron Burr was.

I went to the Webster dinner. His speech was really worth going 50 miles to hear. It exceeded everything I had ever heard before. *As read*, it is nothing compared with it *as delivered*, though word for word the same. He is a prodigiously great man. His style of speaking is very much like that of the late Mr. Wells. A gentleman, who is a very com-

petent judge, and who, to use his own language, had often measured swords with both of them, not long since told me that Webster was far behind Wells as a lawyer, but far before him as a statesman.

I send the leases for Gould to execute. He will then return them both to me, for Eloise to execute when she comes of age, which will be on the 13th of May next.

NOTE: The address by Mr. Webster was probably the "Speech delivered at a Public Dinner given by a large number of the citizens of New York (Chancellor Kent in the Chair), in honor of Mr. Webster on the 10th of March, 1831."

LETTER OF APRIL 6, 1831.

The scruples or misgivings of a dying man (whether reasonable or unreasonable), ought, in every instance, to be treated with the utmost kindness and delicacy, and I must beg it as a particular favor that you will take an early opportunity to make John's mind perfectly easy on this subject. Say to him that I have not the least recollection that I ever blamed him in this matter, and that if I ever did, I did what I ought not to have done, and that I am extremely sorry that I should ever have been the cause of disturbing his last moments. I wish you to use your own discretion in this affair, and go as far as you may

think discreet, in the present state of his mind, body and feelings. You might, with perfect truth say to him, if you think proper, that ever since he has been dangerously ill, I have felt a lively interest for him, more especially in regard to his future state, and that I have offered many earnest supplications on his behalf. I like his tenderness of conscience, and would wish to encourage it, for I am fully persuaded that, let a man in full health devote his whole life to the thought of death, and to preparation for it, when he comes to die it will, in most cases, strike him with terrors which he never anticipated or felt before. Death is indeed the king of terrors, and there is great truth in what John Newton said, when speaking of some person of well established piety who died in great fear of death: "Tell me not how a man died, but tell me how he lived." I really feel most anxious that John's mind should be put perfectly at rest in regard to the affair referred to.

NOTE: The invalid mentioned was Mr. Lloyd's relative, John Cogswell.

LETTER OF JULY 15, 1831.

I am persuaded she is greatly dissatisfied, and I fear she has had advisers in her brothers in Phila-

delphia. I understand she complains that she was not appointed an executrix, and withheld her consent to the proof of the will in Boston, or at least did what was tantamount to that. I am surprised at this, as I have always heard her spoken of in the highest terms, as possessing a most amiable disposition, and as being withal a most estimable woman. But it is a most lamentable truth, even with regard to the best of us, that when our feelings get an improper bias, they make awful shipwreck of all that is amiable and desirable in human character and conduct. You will, of course, understand that this is said in the strictest confidence.

LETTER OF AUG. 12, 1831.

I notice with interest what you say about the breaking up and dispersion of the survivors of the late family of your deceased uncle. Such instances are mournful evidences of the transitory nature of earthly things, and serve to admonish those whose house still stands firm, that it must soon go to decay and ruin. . . . I perceive you are not an admirer of M^r Lloyd's Will. But you ought to bear in mind a feeling which pervades most persons who have become very rich and very much at-

tached to money, which is that they cannot endure the thought of *separating* it, or of placing it in a situation wherein it can be spent. I have often been struck with the strong marks of this disposition when examining or drawing the Wills of very rich people. M^r Lloyd was undoubtedly very fond of money. It was his *ruling* passion, but it did not, in his opinion, constitute the *summum bonum* of life. He had an ardent thirst for literary and political fame, neither of which could have had any connection with making money. Mrs. Lloyd has been here for some time. Shortly after her arrival she sent for me, and I had a long and free conversation with her. From what I had previously heard, I expected a good deal of intemperance. I was agreeably disappointed. She did not conceal her dissatisfaction, but she did not forget what was due either to herself or to the memory of her deceased husband.

NOTE: The reference is to the Hon. James Lloyd, Jr., who died on April 5, 1831. The expression, "late family of your deceased uncle," may refer to the household of Henry Lloyd, who died unmarried.

LETTER OF SEPT. 9, 1831.

I thank you for enclosing me the letter of your son John, (and which I now return to you). It is

better as to style, handwriting and ideas than I should have expected. He shows clearly that he has got the matter in him, and I think he will avail himself of it. He has advanced farther in Latin and Greek than I was aware of, and, I presume, in the course of about a year, you will think of entering him in Yale College. By that time I think he will be sufficiently prepared. Most parents do not think as they ought on the immense importance attached to the age at which John has arrived, when his habits, views and principles are all receiving a character which will not only last through life but probably govern through life. On this subject his letter speaks well, I should say very well indeed. I often look with intense anxiety upon George, and wonder what he is to be. One thing, however, I see very clearly, which is, that he wants to be constantly looked after.

I am happy to learn you contemplate a visit to the Eastward. This is a delightful season, and I presume you will find the excursion a very pleasant one. You ought to take Commencement in your way, when you will not only see many old acquaintances, but will have an opportunity to hear Chancellor Kent deliver his oration. By the way, this is a very singular affair, and can be accounted for only on the score of his excessive vanity. That

it will read most elegantly and eloquently I have not the least doubt, but the delivery will be most shocking. Were I in New Haven, I doubt whether I should be present at its delivery. It will be painful, especially to those who know and appreciate his merits as I do. But as a writer, Ch. Kent will advantageously compare with the *best* of the present age, whether in Europe or this Country, and I recommend you to procure a copy of his oration, which will certainly be published. You will find it *one of the best pieces of composition that you ever read*. The best writer that I know of among the living is Sir W^m Scott, (now Lord Stowell), and Ch. Kent is very little, if any, his inferior as a pure classical writer.

NEW YORK, 8 Jan'y, 1832.

MY DEAR SIR:

Yours of the 28th ult^o was duly received. I regret sincerely to learn the indisposition of your children, John and Phoebe, and beg when you write me again you will inform me how they are.

I have often reflected on your situation in life, and cannot be insensible of the awful havoc which death has made among your kindred, and with what rapid succession he still continues to aug-

ment the number of his victims. I am also aware that towards a friend situated as you are, one is very apt to tender his advice, recommending this or that course agreeably to his own feelings or views. But my reflections have satisfied me that such advice is generally ill judged, and that the true course is to leave every person thus situated to judge and act for himself.

M^r. Mott was with me last evening to get me to prepare a deed from him to you. But unfortunately he had left at home the requisite papers, and nothing therefore can be done till he comes to town again.

If you have entered into a valid contract with M^r. Mott, and if there be no valid objection to the title, the risk of the buildings, prior to the delivery of the deed, is *yours*, not *his*. This principle is as old as the Institutes of the Civil Law, (going back to something like the age of Cicero), which put this very case, and for your amusement as well as to try your Latin, I will here transcribe it from the original: "Cum autem emptio et venditio contracta sit, periculum rei venditae statim ad emptorem pertinet, tametsi adhuc ea res emptori tradita non sit. Itaque si aut aedes totae, vel aliqua ex parte, incendio consumptae fuerint, emptoris damnum est, cui necesse est, licet rem non fuerit nactus,

pretium solvere." Such was the law at Rome. In the earlier stages of the English law, a directly opposite rule prevailed, and several cases are reported to that effect. But it is now well settled that the former rule no longer prevails there, and that the more rational principle of the Civil Law has taken its place. Lord Eldon, speaking of a case precisely like the one contemplated by you, says: "As to the mere effect of the accident itself, no solid objection can be founded upon that simply; for if the party by the contract has become the owner of the premises, they are his to all intents and purposes. They are vendible as his, chargeable as his, capable of being encumbered as his, they may be devised as his, they may be assets, and they would descend to his heir." To this you would probably say that you are not *the owner* till you get your deed. But in legal intendment, the moment the contract is made, (provided it be a valid contract, and the title turn out to be a good one), *the land* belongs to the purchaser and the *price* to the seller, and such is the common understanding of mankind, a proof of which is to be found in your very letter before me, in which you say: "M^r Mott accepted of my offer, and I am *the owner* of his farm here."

Thus much for law, about which I have said a

great deal more than is necessary. But it always affords me great pleasure, when I investigate a principle, to trace it to its source and follow it up in its different bearings.

In haste,

Yours very truly,

GEO. W. STRONG.

JOHN N. LLOYD, ESQ.

NOTE: The case decided by Lord Eldon and referred to by Mr. Strong is *Paine vs. Meller*, 6 Vesey Jr., 349 (A. D. 1801). Compare Gerard on Titles to Real Estate, Ch. XIX, Title II, 5th Ed., p. 500 (New York, 1909); Reeves on Real Property, §404 (Boston, 1909); Williams *vs. Haddock*, 145 N. Y., 144, 150; McKechnie *vs. Sterling*, 48 Barb., 330; Ins. Co. *vs. Dunham*, 117 Penn. State Rep., 460, 475, 477. As to the rule upon the sale of goods and chattels, see the English statute, in which the existing law was reproduced there, the Sale of Goods Act, 1893, sections 7, 17, 18 and 20. This statute can be found as an Appendix to Benjamin on Sales, 7th Amer. Ed., 1899.

LETTER OF MAY 18, 1832.

Eloise has been for a day or two somewhat indisposed, in consequence of a heavy cold. She is a little better today. I trust nothing serious will result from it. I believe she wrote you some few days ago. She ought to write you more frequently, and I have repeatedly spoken to her about it. However, she is so different from what she was,

(at least so parental partiality induces me fully to believe), that I cannot but see in her much more to approve than to censure. She, however, does love young company dearly, while Mary errs about as much in the opposite extreme.

LETTER OF JUNE 22, 1832.

I did attend the public dinner to Washington Irving. It went off very well, but the written or printed account of it is very different from the reality. In all my life I never saw a man make such a complete failure, or rather such a fool of himself, as did Chancellor Kent in his speech. He became so excessively embarrassed as to be unable to proceed. He could neither connect his ideas nor pronounce his words. Indeed, he was compelled to stop. It was a perfect breaking down. He apologized by saying, (foolishly enough), "The presence of the audience overawes me, but I shall be able to go on directly." He then searched his pockets for his MS., and, having at last found it, and laid it before him, he was too much embarrassed to read it, and again attempted to proceed without it, and was finally compelled to stop short and sit down, amidst the roaring applause of the company as a matter of course! At Kent I felt disposed to laugh;

for Irving I felt really sorry, for when he rose to speak it was very manifest that he did not know whether he stood on his head or on his feet. He was excessively embarrassed, and appeared to have taken the contagion from the presiding officer on his left. He caught hold of the knife with which he had been eating, and threw it around and about to the great peril of those who were near him. However, this was quite excusable in him. But my wish is that Kent will never attempt to make another public speech. I could not but contrast . . . who succeeded Irving, with the two who had preceded him. He appeared as much their superior in mental endowments as we all know them to be his superiors. He had every word committed perfectly to memory, had been taught precisely how and where to lay the emphasis, and most evidently felt perfectly satisfied with himself and every word he uttered. Duer's speech was admirable and admirably delivered. I agree with you that it does not read as well as Kent's, and certainly not as well as it appeared in the delivery.

NEW YORK, 6th July, 1832.

MY DEAR SIR:

Yours of the 30th ult^o is at hand.

I never before saw this city in such a state of

confusion and excitement as at present. I cannot convey to you any adequate conception of the existing state of things. You will see one man frightened almost out of his senses, and looking and talking in such a way that you cannot avoid laughing at him, and the next man will be railing against the excitement, first denying that there is anything like Asiatic Cholera in the city, affirming that the cases which have occurred are the ordinary cholera of the country, that they are not more frequent or malignant than what are usual at this season of the year, and then contending most resolutely that, even admitting the genuine Asiatic Cholera to be here, this is the place of the greatest safety. Indeed one would suppose from the remarks which he may frequently hear, that if the real cholera raged ever so badly here, and the adjacent country were ever so healthy, this would be the only place where a man could calculate to be safe. I am disgusted with such contrariety of opinion and feelings, and am more and more convinced that it is my imperative duty to judge and act for myself. Day before yesterday, in the afternoon, I called upon Dr. Nielson, who is my family physician, and one of the Medical Council of the city, and asked his advice as to the most proper course to be pursued. He assured me that

at present there was no more cause for alarm than what is usual at this season of the year, that I ought by no means to leave the city, and added that he would not permit his family to go away. One of his daughters was in the country on a visit, and he has sent for her home in consequence of the existing excitement. I have reason however to know that other physicians have advised directly the opposite course. I have not been able from the beginning to divest my mind of the horrors of an attack on the road, or in the country, where no medical aid can be had immediately, at least none upon which any reliance can be had. In this state of utter uncertainty as to what I ought to do, I have recommended that everything about my house should be put in readiness for leaving it the moment it is deemed best, and this course of preparation has been going on since Monday last. I can have lodgings at Wilton, if I think best to go there. M^{rs} Strong, Eloise and Mary were at first prodigiously alarmed, but among the other unaccountable things attending the present state of things, they have cooled down a good way below my standard, and I can hardly excite them as much as I think they ought to be. Both of the M^r Griffins have left with their families, so that I am quite alone in the office. The elder M^r Griffin

has been the greatest alarmist that I have seen. I think he ought to have gone, I advised him to go, and I am rejoiced that he has gone. He talked almost of nothing else, and collected and propagated all the idle and frightful stories that are afloat. He compelled his son to go. The father has gone with his family to Pennsylvania, and the son, with his, to Connecticut. I may go today, tomorrow or not at all. I shall be governed wholly by circumstances from day to day. I look forward with great anxiety to the report of today. I anticipate an immense increase from yesterday. Under 50 cases for today I shall consider not alarming. Recollect, every bowel complaint is now set down to the cholera. But then the patient dies so soon, and almost with as much certainty as he is attacked; there is the terror to my mind. Then again it is said they had been guilty of excesses, were abominably filthy, actually living in filth, so the cases are parried by the non-alarmists, and the facts of the case denied on the other side. All business is completely at a stand, and ceases to present the slightest inducement to remain here. Indeed I lay it wholly out of the question, and avoid it as much as possible. I consider the present moment as one of awful peril, involving nothing short of life and death, and my great and sole

object is to adopt and pursue the course of safety, and my great difficulty is to discover that course. Expense is no object.

Should my life be spared, I will write you again shortly.

Yours very truly,

GEO. W. STRONG.

JOHN N. LLOYD, ESQ.

NOTE: See also Francis Griffin's letter of Sept. 5, 1832, to Mr. Strong.

WILTON, (CONN.),
16th July, 1832.

MY DEAR SIR:

Yours of the 10th instant I received at this place by mail a few days since. We left town on Monday last, in the steamboat *Citizen*, and reached Norwalk after a very disagreeable passage of wind and rain about 12. I expected we should all catch our death colds from the wet, but fortunately we all escaped. We are very conveniently accommodated at Mr. Lambert's, where we have everything to render us comfortable. My brother-in-law, Mr. Johnson, and his family, and the two Miss Templetons, are with us. I have my carriage and horses. In all, we make 14, besides 4 other boarders in the same family. We all enjoy excellent

health. It was not without much hesitation that I concluded to leave the city, but having there nothing to do, and constantly hearing exaggerated stories, many leaving town, and those who advised to stay generally having business to keep them there, I determined, on the whole, that it was the safest to flee.

Whether there be any real Asiatic cholera in town, I have not been able fully to determine. That there is a disease there of a very malignant character, producing death most suddenly, cannot be doubted, but it has not, as far as I can learn, put on the same type there which it has done in other places.

Please write me often. I would say more but I fear the hour for closing the mail is just at hand.

Yours very truly,

GEO. W. STRONG.

JOHN N. LLOYD, ESQ.

NEW YORK, 9th Oct. 1832.

MY DEAR SIR:

Your very acceptable letter of the 27th ult^o I duly received.

The cholera has ceased to produce any excite-

ment in this city, and is scarcely mentioned. I confess I still feel very great apprehension respecting it, not from any present danger, but that it will linger among us through the winter and break out afresh with the return of warm weather. However, it is a most inscrutable disease, and no certain calculation can be made respecting it. In the Western states, it is committing the most awful devastations. A day or two since, I saw and conversed with a physician direct from Alabama, who gave a most frightful account of its ravages. Cincinnati was nearly deserted, and the inhabitants fleeing in every direction. It rages very much on board of the steamboats on the Western rivers. One boat, he stated, arrived with 40 cases on board, and ten deaths had occurred on the passage. He avoided the steamboats and came the whole distance by land. He says the type of the disease is worse there than it was here, and that the work of death is generally accomplished in a few hours. I find our merchants here, in their sales to Southern customers, are influenced very much by the cholera in their calculations as to the safety of their debts. . . .

While I was at Wilton, I became acquainted with Mr. Gallatin, who was detained a few days at Norwalk by sickness in his family on his way to

Greenfield, where he remained during the cholera. Since our return, he has employed me in a pretty important concern, respecting the settlement of the estate of his wife's mother, who has recently deceased. This has necessarily led to frequent intercourse and an intimate acquaintance with him, and I must say he is the *most wonderful* man I ever saw. He is now 75 years old. His mind never was better, though his health is very delicate and his constitution apparently very much impaired. His conversation is remarkably interesting. He has all of the animation and vivacity of youth. In his manners he is a perfect gentleman, and it is impossible to be in his company five minutes without being struck with the idea that he is altogether of a superior order of intellect. The only three great men that I have had an opportunity of closely observing were Doctor Dwight, Mr. Wells and Mr. Emmet, but there is something in Mr. Gallatin's conversation very different from, (and I should say superior to), that of either of them. He has such a quick and accurate perception; he passes over nothing without a thorough comprehension of it. Take him on any subject, and he is perfectly at home on it. His stock of information is almost inexhaustible, and of the most valuable and interesting character. He has related to me

a great many anecdotes which have interested me very much. One or two I will repeat. When the Wellington administration went out of office, Mr. Gallatin was Minister at the Court of St. James. The Duke of Wellington, on that occasion, gave a grand dinner to all his late associates in his Ministry, at which all the foreign Ministers were invited. Mr. Gallatin attended, and occupied a seat at table next but one to Lord Eldon, (late Chancellor). While the servants were removing the cloth from the table, and before the choice or rich wines were brought on, Lord Eldon remarked: "I really think they did right in turning me out of office. I certainly begin to fail, for I have drank only a bottle and a half of port, while my usual quantity at dinner is two bottles." Mr. Gallatin says it is a fact that Lord Eldon, then 85 years old, had then already drank a bottle and a half of wine, and was in the constant habit of drinking two bottles at dinner, and usually, in the course of an evening, eat two meat suppers. He represents his Lordship, at that age, as one of the strongest and best built men he ever saw. He has been Lord Chancellor of England more than twice as long as any of his predecessors, and, I presume, decided four times as many cases, and yet drank his two bottles of wine at the least a day, and eat two hearty suppers

an evening, down to the age of 85, and still enjoying most excellent health. Mr. Gallatin says that when he was in England, taking the 16 incumbents of the highest judicial offices in that country, that is, the twelve judges, the judge of the High Court of Admiralty, the Lord Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, and Master of the Rolls, their average age was 72, which he thinks is rather a bad commentary upon our constitution, which superannuates a judge at 60. He says that during the four years that he was secretary of the Treasury, under Mr. Jefferson, *he drafted every act passed by Congress*, with the exception of those only which related to the Judiciary. With such and similar anecdotes, he has contributed very much to my amusement and instruction, and I confess has made an impression on my mind which will not be very soon or easily effaced.

Since I began this letter, in looking over some old papers for another purpose, I stumbled upon the enclosed which belongs to you, and about which you wrote me some time since, and which I could not then find. I now return it to you with pleasure.

Yours very truly,

GEO. W. STRONG.

JOHN N. LLOYD, ESQ.

NEW YORK, 3^d Jan., 1833.

MY DEAR SIR:

. . . I have no inclination and not much space left to say anything on public affairs. The proclamation is indeed a most splendid and magnificent production. It is, as I understand, from the pen of Governor Cass, the Secretary at War. He is a man of most consummate talents, and "his private character and life are most beautiful," to use a quotation from the inscription on Mr. Emmet's monument. Still, I very much fear this proclamation will not answer the purpose. It sounds too much of old-fashioned and exploded Federalism to set well. John Randolph is out against it, under his own signature, and the politicians of Virginia generally disapprove of it. I think we must have a civil war and a dismemberment of the Union.

Yours very truly,

GEO. W. STRONG.

JOHN N. LLOYD, ESQ.

NOTE: This letter refers to the "Nullification" controversy with South Carolina.

LETTER OF MAY 10, 1833.

It is very true, as you justly remark, that it is harrowing to dwell on instances of such helpless

misery. But still they will occur, and the inference to which they lead appears to be obvious. I have very often thought that there were two grand and fundamental errors in the prevalent charities of the present day, the one is *publicity*, and the other is the *neglect of the poor*. Whoever will read the Scriptures must, I think, come to the conclusion that the *poor are the first objects* of charity, and that it is to be done in secret. But the fashion of the present day is to give to some public charitable association, and have the amount of the donation trumpeted abroad in some newspaper, or other publication, and then he that gives the most is the best fellow. Now if in this there be aught of the *spirit of charity*, I confess I am yet to learn its first principles.

NOTE: This paragraph begins with a quotation from Mr. Lloyd's letter of April 20, 1833.

LETTER OF SEPT. 6, 1833.

You think it is a very easy matter to regulate temperance in drinking, while it is far otherwise in eating. In my opinion, temperance in everything, eating, drinking, labor, desire, &c., &c., is equally a duty, and equally feasible, not however by one general rule equally applicable to every individual,

for what is cordial to one is often poison to another, and hence arises one of my objections to the sweeping injunction of entire abstinence upon all. But every man must judge for himself, and he who will not govern himself by his own judgement and experience, will hardly be restrained by a voluntary vow.

LETTER OF DEC. 5, 1833.

I have determined on sending my son to Columbia College. He has attended for the last fifteen months the Grammar School attached to the College, and I have every reason to be satisfied with his improvement and standing. Over this school Prof. Anthon presides, having some dozen *satraps* under him. The school consists of upwards of 200 boys. George is in the first class, which alone recites to Anthon. He stands in the utmost dread of his teachers, and knows very well that if he neglects a single lesson he will get a good whipping for it. He studies as hard as I want him to do. He is now a much better Latin and Greek scholar than I was the day I graduated. I expect he will enter College next July. I spend every evening with him at his studies from 6 to 10, and this is the first winter, since I have been in business, that I

have omitted coming to the office in the evening. My labor on the whole is essentially increased by this course, but I consider George's education of so much importance, and the present such an interesting period of his life, that I deem it my duty to make the sacrifice. He is very fond of his studies, particularly of the languages, as a proof of which I might mention that for his amusement he spends his leisure hours in reading Sophocles' Tragedies and Lucian's Dialogues in the original Greek.

LETTER OF FEB. 7, 1834.

Your information respecting . . . is very direct, but still I cannot believe it without further confirmation. In the Summer season I am frequently at Flatbush, where I often see him, and I never heard or had a suspicion that he drank. On the contrary, I should have fixed upon him as a very active member of the Temperance society, and ready to condemn everyone as a drunkard who refused to join. By the way, your hair would stand on end like quills upon the fretful porcupine, if you were to hear Ch. Kent talk on the subject of Temperance societies. Altho a very temperate man himself, yet I think he carries his opposition

much too far, nor can I agree with him in this respect, while on most subjects I am very apt to listen to him as possessing oracular wisdom. You would have thought him the most singular of all human beings, had you been present and listened to a conversation which I witnessed last Summer, on board of a steam boat, between him and Josiah Quincy, Esq., of Boston.

I saw General Jackson when here "on the grand tour" last Summer. He was in the street mounted on horseback with his hat off, bowing first on one side and then on the other to the innumerable multitude, who were shouting hosannahs to him, which he received very graciously. I went to pay my respects to him in form, while he received company at the City Hall, but it happened to be the ladies' day, and I could therefore gain no admittance. Clay I never saw. . . . Confidence in the commercial community seems to be at an end, and the consequence is an almost universal prostration of business. It would seem that this country had become too prosperous, and money too plenty, and that those who were too desirous to become rich, taking advantage of the facility of credit, had extended themselves much too far, till creditors became alarmed and called for their money, when it could not be raised, and thus con-

fidence has been destroyed. But this country is remarkable for its vicissitudes. I well recollect that about a year ago I thought that civil war was inevitable. That cloud, however, most suddenly and unexpectedly dispersed, and was succeeded by a serene atmosphere. It may be so with the present state of things, but I confess I can see no prospect of it at present.

NEW YORK, March 7, 1834.

MY DEAR SIR:

. . . There is no man in this community who does more toward discountenancing intemperance, both by precept and example, than Chancellor Kent, (who happens now to be in my office examining law books). But he, together with a great many other great and good men, thinks that there are divers projects now on foot and highly popular for the melioration of mankind, which bid fair in process of time to do more hurt than good. . . . I have read with much interest and attention the piece which you were so good as to send me "on mental precocity." I approve entirely of the views there expressed, and a child like those there described is far from being desirable. George has

no resemblance to such a child. The most that can be said of him is that he has always evinced an extraordinary attachment to books, and an unusual degree of perseverance and labor in the study of them. In this respect I find it necessary to check him, and at the same time to censure his neglect of his lessons. I want him to study on the whole less, but his lessons more. In a class of 19 his weekly reports range from No. 1 to No. 4. But if all his studies were devoted to his lessons alone, he would uniformly be No. 1. Within the last four months, he has written out entire translations of two of Sophocles' Tragedies, three of Æschylus, and one of the Comedies of Aristophanes, occupying more than one hundred pages of closely-written foolscap. All this is independent of his lessons and done out of school. The translation would not appear badly in print, nor do discredit to a mature scholar. I think it is more than his nature can bear up under, and I have set my face against his continuing it. I consider the education of children as of inconceivable importance, and I have endeavored to spare no labor or expense in reference to the education of my own. I expect to start with Eloise this afternoon on rather a singular expedition to Newburgh, to examine a little cottage near there which is to be sold next week, and

which was formerly General Washington's headquarters. I have no expectation that I shall buy it, and the probability is so very remote that I beg you will not mention it.

Yours very truly,

GEO. W. STRONG.

JOHN N. LLOYD, ESQ.

LETTER OF APRIL 4, 1834.

If half be true of what General Jackson and his violent partisans say about the United States Bank, I should be on his side, but this is denied, nor have I the means of arriving at the truth. However, I have always thought him a violent, passionate, headstrong man, and it appears to me that in many things he has descended from the dignity of his station, and at the approaching election I propose to do, (what I have not done for the last 20 years, that is), vote upon purely party grounds. This election will be the most important in its consequences, and will be much more violently contested, than any that has ever before taken place in this city. It is put wholly on the Bank and Deposit questions. I find not an in-

individual who is neuter on the subject, nor do I believe that the election will terminate without bloodshed. Which party will prevail it is difficult to say. Both profess the utmost confidence of success. But when they come to the scratch at the polls, I shall not be surprised if a "whorrah for Jackson" carries all before it. There is one distinction recently introduced into political discussions which I fear will have a most fatal tendency, and that is, an attempt to excite the poor against the rich. This may easily prove fatal to our government. You must not be surprised if the next intelligence you have is that . . . is elected Mayor. Should this unfortunately be the result, Jackson and his party will assume much stronger ground, and it is impossible to say where the consequences must end. Should Van Buren succeed Jackson, he will pursue the same line of policy with probably more cunning and dexterity, and by the time his eight years have expired, we may probably bid farewell to the Republic. Clay, I think, stands no chance. He has been distanced so often that I think none of the political Jackies will be on his side any longer. If Cass stood any chance for success, I should prefer him to any other man. I think he is honest, and might be safely trusted. Webster must go down, and Binney is known only

as a great lawyer and jurist, but not as a politician or public man.

NOTE: This refers to elections held during General Jackson's period. It is said of it: "The tone of political discussion was unexampled for its violence and rancor." Stanwood.

LETTER OF JUNE 13, 1834.

I have lately read with great interest and attention Mr. Webster's speech on the Protest. It strikes me as one of the ablest, most logical and eloquent productions I ever read in my life, probably the most so. I should think that it would not suffer at all by a comparison with the best speeches of Burke, Chatham, Canning, Cicero or Demosthenes. I yesterday conversed with a gentleman, a very competent judge, (the Rev'd. Mr. Creighton), who has just returned from Washington, who informs me that Webster is decidedly the greatest man in Congress.

NOTE: President Jackson sent to the Senate, on April 15, 1834, a Protest against a Resolution of the Senate, the Resolution declaring that in ordering the removal of the deposits of the public money from the United States Bank, the President had acted in derogation of the Constitution and laws, and Senator Webster addressed the Senate in opposition to the Protest. Chancellor Kent said of this speech: "You never equalled this effort," and, "It is worth millions to our liberties."

LETTER OF JULY 30, 1834.

Mr. . . . called on me yesterday, and after a good deal of difficulty and discussion with him I made the following arrangement: . . . The bone of contention between Mr. . . . and myself arose from his insisting on my paying for the excess *now*, and before the survey is made. The deeds purport to convey 511-85/100 acres, and according to the literal reading of the contract, the *deeds* and not the *survey* are made the criterion by which the excess is to be estimated, the language being that, "if by the said *deed* the said land shall exceed 500 acres," and so forth. I told him that the word *deed* was a mistake and that it should have been *survey*; that Mr. Gould never intended to pay \$13 for an acre, which he did not receive. That his, (Mr. . . .), construction of the contract involved a manifest absurdity, for by the terms of the contract he was not to refund anything unless the quantity fell short of 500 acres, and suppose I were now to pay him for 11-85/100 acres surplus, and suppose by the survey it should turn out that there were precisely 500 acres, then there would be no refunding, and Mr. Gould would have paid about \$156 beyond the contract price of \$13 per acre, and for which he would have no re-

dress. But notwithstanding all I could say to him, he persisted that the contract was correctly drawn, and that Mr. Gould understood it precisely as he did. He evidently evinced more of Yankee cunning than sound sense or common honesty, and I finally told him that I was immovable on this point, and if he calculated to gain it, he must first go and see Mr. Gould, and get his written consent to that effect. This, however, he declined doing, and said he would wait for the surplus till after the survey was made.

NEW YORK, 11th Aug., 1834.

MY DEAR SIR:

. . . You doubtless have heard various rumours about the existence of Cholera among us. The disease is certainly among us, but the cases hitherto, I believe, are few, of a sporadic character and mitigated type. No alarm exists; no removals have taken place. My arrangements are already made to quit the moment that course becomes prudent. Mrs. Strong, Mary and George are at present at present at Whitestone. Eloise is with me.

Yours very truly,

GEO. W. STRONG.

JOHN N. LLOYD, ESQ.

NEW YORK, 11th August, 1834.
(Confidential)

MY DEAR SIR:

I take pleasure in communicating to you, confidentially, an event that is likely to happen of deep interest to myself, and about which I presume you will not feel indifferent. It is probable that your niece, (Eloise), will ere long change her name and residence. The gentleman is Elias Hasket Derby, Esq., a lawyer in Boston. I have known this gentleman for several years by correspondence on business, and the opinion which I have thus formed of him has been of the most favorable kind, and I feel myself bound to say that these impressions are vastly strengthened by a more intimate personal acquaintance with him, and by information derived from others. He has been at the Bar about six years, and has acquired a very handsome share of business, and accumulated considerable property. He sustains a very fair character for integrity and morality, and I am much deceived if he has not a very amiable disposition. His income is about \$4,000 a year. His appearance is not prepossessing, but he is a gentleman in his principles and manners. I must say I am pleased with him, and give my consent without the least reluctance or misgivings. I regret the residence

in Boston, but that is a trifling objection if there be no other.

Considering the perils through which Eloise has passed, I cannot but felicitate myself on the present prospect. She has been *beset* by those whom I thought to be undeserving of her, two of whom I believe I have mentioned to you, but there are many more whom I have not, some of whom she declined herself, but in regard to the rest, that most unpleasant and trying duty was devolved on me. I have discharged it with a studious regard to her own welfare, but I confess, at the same time, with fear and trembling as to the consequences. Thus far I have no cause to regret the course I have pursued, but great reason to approve of it. *It may be* that I am now erring, but, if so, I err with the utmost good faith. She has acted on this occasion with great discretion and propriety. The reference on both sides was immediately to me, and everything has been conducted according to my ideas of propriety on such occasions.

I shall take an early opportunity to speak to Mr. Derby, who is now here, respecting you and your family, in such terms of commendation as, I doubt not, will command his entire confidence and esteem.

You will please to consider this communication,

for the present, as entirely and strictly confidential,
and believe me to remain,

Yours very truly,

GEO. W. STRONG.

JOHN N. LLOYD, ESQ.

NEW YORK, 8th September, 1834.

MY DEAR SIR:

I duly received yours of the 18th of last month, and which would have been answered sooner in the ordinary course of things. But my mind and business have lately been somewhat out of their usual current.

Eloise was married on Thursday last, at half past three P.M., and left immediately after for West Point, where they were to remain till this morning, and then proceed to Lebanon. I have heard from her twice at West Point. She certainly appears to be in high spirits, and thus far delighted with her new situation. On the day of her marriage, I received a letter and bundle from you for her, which I gave to her, but the contents of your letter she did not mention to me. The truth is, such another scene of hurry and confusion I never witnessed before. I take it for granted that your letter assigned as a reason for your not coming,

the prevalence of the cholera. Although I should have been very happy to have had you and your children present, yet, if you had asked me beforehand, I should very frankly have advised you, on account of the sickness, to keep away from the City for the present. The sickness came on just about the time when it was necessary for Eloise to begin her preparations. I thought it imprudent for my family to remain here any longer, and particularly to sleep here at night. We accordingly went to White Stone, where my family still are. But Eloise found it indispensable to be a good deal in town, and it became necessary for me to accompany her. I had not the least conception that the preparation for a private marriage would create so much trouble, and require so much time. The marriage itself went off extremely well. There were present, besides Mrs. Strong, Mary and George, brother Benjamin and his wife, brother Joseph, his wife and three daughters, Mr. and Mrs. Catlin, *her* sister and *his* two brothers, Miss Lane of Newport, and Mr. Nesmith, who is a friend of Mr. Derby and first introduced him to Eloise. I am extremely well pleased with Mr. Derby's connections as far as I have seen them. The moment the ceremony was over, Mrs. Catlin remarked to Mrs. Strong: "Eloise will never

repent of that; he is my twin brother; I know him well." Indeed, I must say that the more I see and hear of Mr. Derby, the better I like him. I think there can be no mistake in regard to him, and that Eloise has done extremely well for herself.

In consequence of what you said in your last letter, I concluded to have a settlement of the real estate made on Eloise. It was accordingly prepared and executed. I have had a great many opportunities to judge of the effects of marriage settlements upon the immediate parties concerned. In one instance out of ten, perhaps, they are beneficial, but in the remaining nine positively injurious. Every man wants the possession and control of his own property, and thinks he can take better care of it than others can for him. They also tend to destroy that oneness which ought always to exist between man and wife, and to render *her* independent of *him*. However, Mr. Derby wished it, and I finally consented to become the sole trustee.

I know not how long my family will remain in the country. I do not think it prudent to bring them home at present. I shall henceforth probably come to town every day, but sleep in the country. Mary yesterday desired me to thank you for your kind invitation to spend the next month

with your daughters, and to say to you that she should prefer postponing her visit till next Spring. With regard to myself, I intended to have been at the Neck before this, but late occurrences have rendered it impracticable. Next week I have to go to Hartford to attend a trial. I intend to come and see you in the course of the Fall. Perhaps I may think it best to defer it till December, when Eloise is to be here, and I shall then recommend her going with her husband to pay you a visit, and it will give me great pleasure to accompany them.

I want to send you and your children some of the wedding Cake, and shall probably accompany this letter with it, but I fear it will be jammed and ruined on the way. Give my love to all. I am in such haste, and have so much to say, that I fear I have scarcely been intelligible, and that you will be unable to read what I have said.

Yours &c.

GEO. W. STRONG.

JOHN N. LLOYD, ESQ.

NEW YORK, 15th Dec^r, 1834.

MY DEAR SIR:

I have just received the enclosed from Mr Lambert. As I felt anxious to learn how your son was, I wrote him on that subject.

It is now most prodigiously cold, and how M^{rs} Strong, Mary and George can endure the fatigue of such weather on a journey to Boston, I am at a loss to conceive. Should it continue, I shall recommend to them to stay at home, and go without them.

Yours very truly,

GEO. W. STRONG.

JOHN N. LLOYD, ESQ.

BOSTON, 27th Dec^r, 1834.

MY DEAR SIR:

In your last letter you expressed a wish that I would write you on my arrival here. On Wednesday the weather was so threatening that the steamboat did not leave New York till the day following, (Christmas), at 12 Noon. Mrs. Strong, Mary and George, accompanied me, and although I thought it was a pretty bold undertaking for them, yet they were all so eager to come that I could not discourage them. The weather was extremely cold and the wind heavy from the N.E. Yet on board of the boat, (the *President*, perhaps the finest steamboat that was ever built), we found it as comfortable and as pleasant as at home by our own fireside. We reached Providence

yesterday morning about half past seven. We then took stage for 26 miles to the railroad, and found it very cold and unpleasant. On the railroad an accident happened to one of the horses, which prevented our reaching Boston till about 2. We found Eloise very well. Indeed she is as well, as comfortable and as happy as I could wish to see her. She was of course very glad to see us, and we to see her. This morning we have been to look at a house which Mr. Derby is about taking. [No. 56 Boylston Street.] We like it very much. It is situate on the Common in a very pleasant part of the city. The rent is \$550. a year. I am very much pleased to find everything so comfortable about Eloise. She appears to have everything that can be desired, and to be very happy. You know we are very apt to think too partially of our own children, but I fancy that I can perceive a great improvement in her for the better during the short time she has been here.

I calculate to leave here by Tuesday or Wednesday of next week. Mary will return with us; she is to come on in May next to make a visit.

I like Boston very much. This morning I have been all over the city to get a general view of it. On my return to Tremont House I find a number of cards. I have seen Mrs. Hubbard. On Mon-

day I calculate to make a number of calls. It is excessively cold here, and the sleighing is very fine.

With kind regards to yourself and children, I remain

Yours very truly,

GEO. W. STRONG.

JOHN N. LLOYD, ESQ.

NEW YORK, 5th Jan'y, 1835.

MY DEAR SIR:

I am happy to say we are all safe back again.

In consequence of the snowstorm, the boat in which we were to return withdrew for the season, and we were therefore compelled to come by land as far as New Haven. We left Boston on Wednesday at 1 P.M., and came to Worcester that night. The next morning we started at half past three, rode 18 miles without stopping before day-light, and reached New Haven at 8 in the evening, having rode 96 miles that day. We came the whole distance on runners, and experienced no inconvenience whatever from the cold. . . . On Monday I went to Salem to visit an uncle of Mr. Derby, by the name of Benjamin Picknam. I

found him a complete gentleman of the old school, living in elegant simplicity. He has formerly been in public life, intimately acquainted with Governor Jay, General Hamilton, Governor Strong, Fisher Ames, Judge Benson and the great men of their day. I must be allowed to say that I think he is the most agreeable and interesting old gentleman I ever saw, and whenever you visit Boston I recommend to you to ask Mr. Derby to take you to his house. The reason of my going was that some time ago he sent me a very polite and pressing invitation, that whenever I visited Boston I must make his house my home.

On Tuesday, I intended to return the various calls, but the storm prevented, and agreeable to the etiquette of the place, we sent round our cards. There were however a few that I was very desirous to call on, and I did so in the snow-storm, among whom were M^{rs} Lloyd and M^r and M^{rs} Borland. Very affectionate enquiries were made after you and your family. The elder M^{rs} Borland has failed very much; I should not have known her. Her memory is impaired and her mind somewhat so. The younger M^{rs} Borland is very plain, but remarkably clever and kind-hearted. Her daughter, (about 18), is very interesting. Tuesday evening we took tea with M^r Hubbard, and saw

several of our friends there. He is decidedly the first lawyer in Boston, next to M^r. Webster.

I like Boston much, perhaps rather too hospitable for my fancy, but the people are free from ostentation and display. The Tremont House is a great establishment, furnishing everything that can be desired, but the charges are most extravagant. M^r. and M^{rs} Derby pay each \$20. a week, besides numerous &c's. Eloise is very much dissatisfied with the charges, and determined to submit to them no longer. Her house is to be furnished, and she to move in, as speedily as possible. She has very much altered since she left here. Among other things, she has become a rigid economist, which I think very commendable.

I hope you will visit Boston with your family next Summer. You will be very much gratified with it.

I did not receive your letter of the 23rd ult^o, with the book and pamphlet, till my return. You will please accept my thanks for the loan of them, and when I have read them I will return them to you.

On the whole, my visit has been a very gratifying one, and, with the exception of George's sickness, my fellow travellers bore the journey extremely well.

My love to your family, and believe me to remain,

Yours very truly,

GEO. W. STRONG.

JOHN N. LLOYD, ESQ.

LETTER OF JAN. 29, 1835.

Never was any poor wretch more absorbed in business than I have been for some time past. I sometimes feel as if I should sink under it. It is really a relief from toil to sit down with George to his lessons, and go over them with him during the evening. . . .

P. S. I wish you would say to Henry that I sincerely hope and confidently trust he means to be a man, and sustain the name and character of his Family. But that this can not be accomplished without hard study and persevering application.

LETTER OF MARCH 25, 1835.

In this way the boys were examined from 9 to half past 1, when, on casting up the accounts, George was found to have 158 to his credit and the next highest was 44. After the class was dis-

missed, the boys went out into the College Green and gave *three cheers*, and Master George came home feeling very much like *the cock of the walk*. But it was not fair. It depended too much on good luck, self-possession and a quick apprehension. George also had a decided advantage in having read so many of his *old books*, which are not studied in College. The first book selected was one that he had not only read before, but which he had written out the entire translation of. He had the candor to mention this, and it was laid aside, and for this I give him more credit than anything else. But if success and praise are generally highly injurious to adults, they cannot be otherwise than most injurious to a boy of 15. I accordingly say but little to him on the subject, except that I am pleased with the result, and cautiously avoid mentioning it to others. His health is now remarkably good. He spends an hour and a half every day at a *gymnasium*, and he has every appearance of a robust and hale boy.

LETTER OF APR. 2, 1835.

The account which I gave you in my last about the result of George's examination was essentially

incorrect. It is true that he succeeded in the classics as represented, but at the close of the public examinations, (which was after I last wrote you), the certificates were announced, and George failed in obtaining the *General Testimonial*, which, as I understand, means the first scholar, and got only the certificate as to the classics. He is, I have no doubt, very much mortified at this result, and I am somewhat disappointed. He, however, contends that he would prefer the one he has got to all the rest. In this I differ from him, and aim at impressing on his mind two important and salutary lessons as the result, the one is of humility, and the other is that he is to study his lessons more and other books less. He studies as hard as I desire, but heretofore it has been almost anything and everything except his lessons. However, I ought to say for him that out of a class of 34, which is allowed to contain some very smart boys, and several of whom are over 18, I think he has acquitted himself creditably, and that I ought to be pleased with it. Still, he ought to *know* and *feel* that if he is to be a first rate scholar, he must not only study *hard* but confine himself to his lessons.

LETTER OF MAY 15, 1835.

I heard from Boston a few days ago and expect to hear again tomorrow. Mary went there with great reluctance, and nothing short of a strong sense of duty induced her to consent. I suspect her great objection was that she would be obliged to go more or less into society. She writes that she does not find going into society half as unpleasant as she anticipated, for the people there appear so kind, agreeable and unaffected, and when Eloise last wrote, Mary had then actually gone to a party at Mrs. John Welles'. Eloise seemed to consider this as a very great affair and made it the principal subject of her letter. As for my own part, I am free to say that I commend Mary for her reluctance at going into company, and believe that in the end it will result to her own good. However, if she can be prevailed upon to go occasionally, I have no particular objection to it. She is missed very much at home, and Mrs. Strong very often mentions her desire for the time when she will return.

NEW YORK, 13 Aug., 1835.

MY DEAR SIR:

. . . Were I to attempt to give you any idea of the babe, I should make an utter failure of it

for the very obvious reason that, to my unpractised eye, all very young infants look just alike. I am told, however, that it is a promising child, and rather large and inclined to be cross, but very healthy. The Doctor said it was born at least one fortnight after the proper and usual time. A difficulty occurs with regard to his name. Mr. Derby's mother insists it shall be called *Elias Hasket* after its father, and paternal grand and great-grand-fathers; on the other hand, Mr. Derby and Eloise both object to the *Elias* part of it. How the matter has been settled, or whether settled at all, I do not know. I told them that I thought they ought to gratify Mrs. Derby. A name is but a name, and therefore of no great consequence, at least not in opposition to the decided wishes of a grandmother.

Mary has not yet returned, tho daily expected. She is waiting for a convenient opportunity to come with some female acquaintance. I have repeatedly offered to go after her. In answer to which she says all her things are packed up to come by the first opportunity. Eloise is very unwilling to have her come away, and has proposed that she should stay with her permanently. To this proposition I can hardly assent. . . .

The travel by railroad is the most pleasant of

any that I ever experienced. To go from Providence to Boston in one and three quarter hours, when the stages accomplished it with great difficulty in seven hours, is a great object gained. The faster you go the more pleasant it is. When I went through, there were about 250 passengers, and one little engine took that number, and about four large wagon-loads of baggage, with all the ease imaginable. The motion is so rapid that it is with difficulty you can count the posts in the fences by the road. Remember me kindly to all, and believe me to remain,

Yours very truly,

GEO. W. STRONG.

JOHN N. LLOYD, ESQ.

LETTER OF OCT. 23, 1835.

I went to Albany on Wednesday on business for the Bank of America arising out of the defalcations and absconding of . . . , the cashier. I made the quickest passage ever made between New York and Albany. It was a race the whole distance between two rival boats, (*Champlain* and *Bunker Hill*). I was in the former which beat by 36 minutes. She claimed to have performed the passage in 9 hours and 13 minutes, but by my

watch it was 9.28, which I believe to be correct. We left New York at 7, and I was in Albany before half past four.

NEW YORK, 23d Decr., 1835.

MY DEAR SIR:

For the particulars of the fire, I must refer you to the newspapers. I was early at my office. We immediately removed everything valuable, and then suspended operations for two or three hours, supposing our office would not be burnt. But when the Exchange caught, the fire ran through it with nearly the same rapidity as if it had been a great mass of shavings, and then the fate of our office became inevitable, but then it was too late to remove what was left, consisting of empty paper cases, tables, chairs, boxes, some old papers of not great value, &c. We ought to consider ourselves peculiarly fortunate. Our loss does not exceed, perhaps, \$100. But the loss hereafter to be sustained cannot be foreseen or estimated. The derangement of business, and the new channels which it may take, admit of no certain calculation.

This City never saw such a calamity before. All the other misfortunes which have befallen it are nothing compared with this. The loss falls

with peculiar severity upon widows, infants and persons retired from business, who had invested their funds in insurance stock with a view to get a large income. I will mention one instance which affects me very sensibly. The family of my late partner, Mr. Wells, have sustained a loss of \$50,000, which is the principal part of the estate. Indeed, his two eldest daughters are reduced to an income of less than \$100 a year each. Hundreds of cases equally afflicting have doubtless occurred. I, fortunately, owned no insurance stock, nor a single mortgage upon property within the district burnt. This district covers about 52 acres, and doubtless contained property of greater value than any other district of equal extent in the City. The night, you may remember, was intensely cold, there were two fires during the preceding night, and the firemen were completely exhausted and the hose and engines frozen and deranged. Add to this, that a quarrel had existed among the firemen themselves, and consequently there was no harmony or concert between them.

Our insurance companies you perceive are all ruined, or nearly so. Brother Joseph's occupation is gone, and he is thrown back to his former helpless situation. But there are hundreds of others in this situation. I have often thought of your

Coddington mortgage. Should the buildings be burnt down, I take it for granted your security would prove insufficient. I think you ought to see that the property is reinsured, and the policy assigned to you. No time should be lost in your attention to this matter.

Yours very respectfully,

GEO. W. STRONG.

JOHN N. LLOYD, ESQ.

LETTER OF FEB. 18, 1836.

The late fire in this city originated in a store in Merchants Street. It is generally supposed that it was the result of accident, or carelessness, in not properly securing or extinguishing the gas-lights, which breaking out again after the clerks had left the store, came in contact with the dry goods on the counter directly under the lamps, and produced the conflagration.

The influence of this fire has been contrary to every possible conception which could reasonably have been anticipated in regard to it. It is said that a lot in the burnt district will now sell for more than the lot and store on it before the fire. This may be attributable to the extension of Beaver Street to Pearl Street, and the closing of

Merchants Street. It is astonishing to see the effect of this alteration. It is understood that Beaver Street is to be equal in point of business to Pearl Street, and this again has extended itself to the lower part of Broadway, where a number of stores are to be erected during the next season. Property in the lower part of Broadway has, since the fire, and in consequence of the fire, advanced at least fifty per cent. Mr. Jay has sold the property occupied formerly by his father, (the old stone house next door but one to Daniel Ludlow's), for \$100,000, which two years ago he would gladly have sold for \$50,000. Rents have advanced most enormously. It is no uncommon event for a store to rent for \$6,000 a year. We have taken our offices after May next in Broadway on the corner of Exchange Place, (late Garden Street). The house in which our offices are taken last year rented for \$1200; now it is let on a lease for \$2500 a year.

Shortly after the fire, not knowing what course business was to take, I pretty much determined to sell my horses and carriage. But I have now abandoned this idea, at least for the present. They are a source of a great deal of expense, and sometimes of no small vexation. However, there is a great convenience in having them. . . .

What follows you will please to consider *entre nous*. I have been some time past a good deal pressed to accept of a professorship in the Law Faculty about to be set up in this city, and to be attached to the new University. At the head of it is Benjamin F. Butler, Esq., the present Attorney-General of the United States. His term of office will expire on the 4th March, 1837, when he is to take charge of this Law Faculty. Two professors besides himself are wanted. He is very solicitous that I should be one of them. I have been in habits of close intimacy and friendship with him for the last twelve or fifteen years. He is a very superior man, and his private life most exemplary. He has named me to Dr. Matthews, who strongly insists on my acceptance. The third person is not yet fixed upon. Under these circumstances, I have said, and written to Mr. Butler to the same effect, that, as at present advised and situated, I must decline. That if the appointments are deferred for a future period, and one should then be offered to me, I would then give an answer, it being understood that I should then be at perfect liberty to decide as I chose. My principal difficulties are connected with my son. I intend him for the law. There is no more idle class in this community than law students, and none more exposed to vice

and bad habits. If George is to go into a lawyer's office, and my life is spared, I consider it my imperative duty to see after him. Again, should I continue in business till he is licensed, I shall then be able to assist him, both as to business and clients, and in that way may be of great advantage to him in his commencement, when assistance is most needed. These are my principal objections. On the other hand, there are great inducements to engage in this Faculty. The field of usefulness, if it succeeds, is beyond calculation. It must tell immensely on the future destinies of this State. The name and talents of Mr. Butler will give it celebrity at once throughout this State, and probably the United States. The lowest calculation is 75 students, and from that to 150.

You see that I have not yet closed the door. My intention has been just to leave it so far open as to admit of my entrance should future circumstances render it desirable. Now, having stated the object, and the *pros* and *cons*, what would you advise me to do?

LETTER OF MAR. 19, 1836.

This season of the year is usually a very busy one with me, and this year more so than heretofore.

I presume to say that, since the Great Fire, more than half of my professional business has been attributable in one way or other to that event. I am employed in the winding up of the business of six of the insolvent Insurance Companies. Some of these have already recommenced the business of insurance under very favorable circumstances. . . . I have not yet seen the fine oxen you speak of. When they come to town, should I hear of it, I certainly will endeavor to get a sight of them. With all deference to your judgment I must beg leave to differ from you as to the expediency of my acceptance of the professorship. I am under no apprehension as to my obtaining it if I would accept it. Indeed my great difficulty is to decline it so as to avoid giving offense. It appears to me that the occupation will not be congenial with my habits, and I cannot get over the objections connected with my son. You may readily imagine that many of my future calculations and dependencies are bottomed upon him. His movements, habits and inclinations call for incessant inspection and watchfulness. I have always been accustomed to labor and application, nor do I calculate to relax till I go hence.

LETTER OF APRIL 15, 1836.

But the pressure for money now is beyond all conception and greater than during the panic, and if we have not shortly some most tremendous explosions, I shall be mistaken. I think we are all beside ourselves. The prevailing plan seems to be to make an immense fortune in a trice, and that without any labor, and by some bold stroke. Now, if this succeeds eventually, it will not only "be something new under the sun," but the moral effect of it, as an example, will be most prejudicial. The spirit of speculation is extending itself all over the country. What would you think of such men as Samuel Hicks and John B. Lawrence speculating in City lots, at an enormous price, in Toledo, on the Maumee River? Did you ever hear of this place before? It is the bone of contention between Ohio and Michigan, the place destined, (as is said), to command the future commerce of Lake Michigan. Not only immense sums are expended by gentlemen of this city in the purchase of lots and grading of streets for this to be city, (which now I understand is covered with stumps), but it is said that princely fortunes have already been realised by those who entered early into the speculation.

LETTER OF MAY 20, 1836.

I had a most delightful and gratifying visit to Boston. Eloise is perfectly well and contented and happy. Mr. Derby is excessively occupied, and I think attends too closely to business, more so than I have ever done, and in this respect I have erred most egregiously. They breakfast regularly at quarter before 7, and it is generally 8 in the evening before Mr. D. gets through with his business. His constitution cannot endure such intense application. Eloise keeps her house as nice as you can conceive, and everything is conducted with the regularity of clock-work. . . .

Eloise is calculating upon a visit from you and your daughters in June next. I sincerely hope you will not disappoint her, as she will be very happy to see you and them, and I am equally confident that the visit will be very gratifying on your part. When you go, you ought to engage berths something like a week beforehand. On our return, the boat had upwards of 300 passengers, and it was difficult to get a place even to sit down. Had I not engaged berths about ten days previously, I know not how we could have passed the night.

LETTER OF JUNE 3, 1836.

I cannot take berths for you till I learn what day you intend leaving Boston. Please let me know in the course of next week. The great difficulty as to berths does not exist here but at Providence, where all the passengers come on board from the cars in a body, and then he who has the least politeness and the most bodily strength is sure to crowd his way first to the Captain's office, and secure his berth. When you take berths in advance you do not pay for them at the time, nor do you pay at all if you do not go in the boat. The effect, as I understand, is simply to secure a preference in case you go. I hope the storm will be over before the 13th inst. M^r. Woolsey, (the Pres^t. of the Boston and P. R. R. Co.), having urgent business to take him to Boston, was to have left here last Monday, but has been prevented by the weather hitherto.

I am extremely anxious that you and your daughters should make the contemplated visit. I anticipate that it will afford you and them high gratification. I like the people of Boston very much, and if Eloise were to move from there here, I should regret it on her account. You will find her and M^r. Derby most happy to see you and

your daughters, and as comfortably and happily situated as you can wish.

LETTER OF AUGUST 17, 1836.

I had a delightful excursion to Boston and New Hampshire. In 16 hours and 10 minutes precisely, after leaving the dock in this city, we were safe in Boston. Mr Derby has a most beautiful and fertile island of about 500 acres in Lake Winnepeaukee. He has 36 of the finest cows I ever saw together, ranging over a pasture of about 250 acres and making about 70 lbs of cheese per day. The surface of the island is about half rock, and yet its productiveness is almost incredible. The overseer, (whose veracity I cannot doubt), assured me he had raised 94 bushels of oats, over 100 bushels of corn, and 41 bushels of wheat to the acre, and had on several occasions taken the premium at the Agricultural Society. The house stands on an elevation of about 200 feet over the waters of the lake, commanding an extensive view in every direction, so that you can count about 400 buildings in view at the same time. The scenery far surpasses in my judgement that of the Highlands or any other place on the North River.

NEW YORK, 30th August, 1836.

MY DEAR SIR:

M^r. Emmet returned home last Saturday evening. Yesterday I saw him in the street and communicated to him verbally the contents of your last letter. . . . After the statement which I made to him M^r. E. said he did not see how he could with any degree of propriety decline paying the draft, and desired me to write him a note to the effect that you insisted upon payment of the draft, a copy of which he would enclose to P. . . . On the other side is a draft of the note, which I will send him today.

COPY OF LETTER

NEW YORK, 30th August, 1836.

MY DEAR SIR:

I communicated to M^r. Lloyd M^r. Pearsall's request that you would not pay his draft for \$1500. with interest till you heard further from him on the subject. M^r. Lloyd was very much surprised at this intelligence, and is at a loss to account for it. His arrangement with M^r. Pearsall was most explicit, but he declined to consummate it until after seeing you, and learning from you that the order would be duly honored should you be in funds, or have other available means for

that purpose. Upon the faith of your assurance he accepted the draft, and parted with his property. He asks, with great propriety, why M^r. Pearsall gave his order for \$1500., if a less sum was to be paid. I have the most entire confidence in the correctness of his views on this subject, and that M^r. Pearsall must labor under some singular mistake in regard to it.

M^r. Lloyd insists, and I think with perfect propriety, upon the payment of the order according to its face, and that the pledge which you gave him should be redeemed, as I have no doubt it will be.

Yours very truly,

GEO. W. STRONG.

THOS. A. EMMET ESQ.

NOTE: Thomas Addis Emmet, elsewhere mentioned in these letters, died in New York City, November 14, 1827. The Mr. Emmet of this period is probably his son, Thomas Addis Emmet, Jr. He was a lawyer, and, for a number of years, a Master in Chancery.

LETTER OF NOV. 22, 1836.

I fear your fond anticipations as to the result of the Presidential election have ere this all vanished. I believe the fact is now conceded, even by M^r. Van Buren's political opponents, that he will be elected by the Colleges without going into

the House of Representatives. North Carolina was the last hope of the Whigs, and she has gone for him. Without any pretensions to prescience, I have always said he would be our next President, and the rejection of him by the Senate as Minister to England was decisive of this result, just as our Corporation turning out Gulick as Chief Engineer has made him Register by a majority of upwards of 5000 votes.

The currency of the country, I believe, is bad enough, but it appears to me that is not the root of the existing evil. I am disposed to attribute it entirely to a universal spirit of speculation pervading the whole country. Take one fact, upon a very small scale. Suppose that the land speculators in this city are now paying an interest upon 10 Millions of dollars, secured upon real estate, which, without producing any income whatever, is constantly liable to taxes and very heavy assessments, and you see at once that, among them at least, there must be a very great scarcity of money; and suppose again that these same speculators, having really no means of their own, are forced to pay 2 and 3 per cent. per month for money, and where must they certainly and speedily end? This is only one instance, and a great many more might be adduced.

George Griswold has been very much censured and ridiculed for his mission to Washington, and he feels it very sorely. He has taken occasion to explain his views to me, and it would not be proper for me to repeat all that he told me. But let the state of things have been ever so bad, he has done nothing more than postpone the evil day till 1st January next. Then, by law, the surplus revenue in this city, (probably \$10,000,000.), must be principally withdrawn. Mr Woodbury wished to do this by degrees, so that the shock might not be overwhelming. But it must come, and when it does come the specie will be required on many of the drafts, and it is conceded there is not specie enough to satisfy them. I do not profess to have any financial knowledge, but from all I can learn, it does appear to me that before the first of May next there will be some most awful explosions in this city and elsewhere. We have gone altogether too fast. Instead of acquiring a moderate competency by a whole life of honest industry and due economy, the present aim is to acquire a splendid fortune in a year or two. This plan never has succeeded, and it never ought to succeed.

NOTE: George Griswold had been married to Mr. Strong's niece, Elizabeth Woodhull, sister of the Revd. Selah Strong Woodhull, D.D.

LETTER OF DEC. 17, 1836.

Yours of the 10th inst. came duly to hand. I have procured two Annuals which accompany this. The cost was \$10. As I am not a very competent judge of the merits of productions of this description, I commissioned Mary to purchase them, not that I think her judgement in matters of taste is superior, but because I thought she was less liable to err in this respect than myself. The enclosed letter to one of your daughters is from her, in which you may take it for granted she makes no allusion to the Annuals.

On the receipt of your letter, I addressed a letter to M^r. Pillsbury, (M^r. Derby's tenant on Cow Island), requesting from him the information in detail which you desire. He is a shrewd, close, calculating Yankee, possessed of very considerable intelligence as well as of sterling integrity, and should he get the letter I have no doubt he will return a very satisfactory answer. The P. O. is about 10 miles from his island, at Wolfsborough.

LETTER OF FEB. 11, 1837.

I now enclose you another paper, which perhaps will gratify you still more. It is the copy of a

hymn written by General Hamilton when he was 19 years old, and presented to his intended wife a year before their marriage. The copy is in the handwriting of his widow, and by her presented to me, she showing me the original manuscript in the General's handwriting. This good old lady is a very extraordinary person. She is now 82 years old and exhibits no symptoms of decay, either of body or of mind. She resides at St. Mark's Place, and very frequently walks from her house to my office and back. I have seen a great deal of her, and I can scarcely name a person to whom I am more sincerely attached. She possesses a most gigantic mind. She is the first Directress of the Orphan Asylum Society, for which I have done a good deal of professional business, and that has led to the intercourse between us. She delights to dwell upon the character and virtues of her husband, and has told me a great many anecdotes about him and General Washington. She values the hymn chiefly as containing very strong and consoling evidence of the early piety of her husband. I confess I value it myself and wish to preserve it, and must therefore ask you to return it. I advised her to publish it, but she seems to think it too sacred to submit to the public gaze and criticism, and I think she

judges rightly in this respect. She has shown me also the written instructions drawn up by her husband for the regulation of the conduct of his son Philip, (who was killed in a duel), while he was a student at law. They certainly do the General great credit, and show that he had a supreme regard for all the decencies and proprieties of life, and that he was a most excellent father.

LETTER OF MARCH 28, 1837.

The times here have been and still are *awful*. The poor merchants have as much as they can possibly stagger under, and the speculators are, most of them, emphatically "poor dogs." George has just completed the first and principal term of his Junior year, during which he has studied full as much as I could wish. He often sits up till one o'clock in the morning, which is rather too much. His progress has been very satisfactory to me. The testimonials are to be announced and distributed next Monday, and I have good reason to believe, indeed to know, that he will verify your prediction in taking the first or general certificate in his class. The error which he heretofore committed was an over-attention to the classics, to the neglect of some other branches. This he has now

corrected, and become satisfied that his *lessons* and *all his* lessons claim his first attention. I have at length got him in such a state of training that I can manage him just as I wish.

LETTER OF APRIL 10, 1837.

This city never saw such times before. It would seem as if universal ruin were threatening us. I know M^r Lawrence has been run hard for money. What may be the issue I cannot tell. Should he stop payment, I should deem it imprudent to communicate your answer to him, although even in that event, with his father's name, I should consider the loan as eventually perfectly safe. There is no possibility of foreseeing what may happen. I know a gentleman who offered \$100,000 of the very best securities the City affords for the loan of \$50,000 for one year, and could not obtain the money, and was compelled to stop. I would not ask M^r Lawrence for my money if I was perfectly persuaded that by simply asking I should get it. I would rather that the property should be invested in his and his father's bond, than have it lying on deposit to my credit in any Bank in this city.

LETTER OF MAY 5, 1837.

My anticipations, however gloomy, have thus far been more than realized. I think the *crisis* began yesterday. This month, I think, will decide the fate of this City, perhaps this country, for years to come. I cannot go into particulars. You will learn them from the newspapers. The scene thickens daily, except that yesterday the excitement was increased much more than on any previous day. How far the banks will be able to stand is very uncertain. They will die hard, but if the disease is mortal they cannot withstand it.

LETTER OF JUNE 7, 1837.

I cannot believe that the prospect before us brightens at all. Indeed, I think it evidently grows worse. There is no business doing among the merchants. The laboring classes are thrown out of employment. Even the business of lawyers has essentially diminished. No Custom House bonds are paid. Merchants have become callous about their credit, and the utmost extent to which they will go is to renew their notes, paying 10 or 20 per cent of the face of them. Many stores and dwellings are without a tenant, and the streets

full of idle vagabonds. Such a state of things I never saw before, nor do I see when, where or how it is to end.

LETTER OF JULY 5, 1837.

But I am entirely confident that if Jackson had let the currency alone, and permitted the U. S. Bank's charter to be renewed, it would not have [saved] the commercial world from the dreadful hurricane which is now sweeping away everything valuable before it. The evil had its origin in *too much haste to be rich*. That disposition must be laid aside, and the evil which it has brought must be endured. We may then begin anew with a fair prospect of slow and gradual accumulation, till the same disposition again prevails.

LETTER OF AUG. 30, 1837.

I have lately seen repeatedly M^r Ditmis, who taught the Academy at Huntington at the times your sisters and myself went to school there. He is a very respectable man and an agreeable companion. I have seen him at his house, and he has visited me in this city. My family is at present

in the country at Whitestone, with the exception of Mary, who stays with and keeps house for me. . . .

I suppose you would smile to be told that I have had LL.D. very unexpectedly added to my name. For this I am indebted to a College in Vermont. . . . But the less said about it, and certainly the less said to me on the subject, the better. I am occasionally bored by the appellation of Doctor, but I give it the go-by as well as I can.

LETTER OF OCT. 24TH, 1837.

Although somewhat disappointed at George's defeat, it does not grieve me at all. He must take his chance through this hard and wearisome life. He is certainly not wanting in resolution and energy, and expresses a wish to begin life depending solely upon his own exertions. Poor, inexperienced boy, he little knows what ills await him, should his life be spared. If he will only take to the paths of virtue and become a good man, I will most cheerfully resign all pretensions to anything else. . . . In less than a year, George, if he lives, will be in the office with me as a student. My principal object will then be to instruct him,

and build up a little establishment for him, by the time he is licensed.

NOTE: This refers to a college examination, in which Mr. Strong's son, George, did not attain first place.

LETTER OF NOVEMBER 7, 1837.

In the meantime I must say your last letter contains some very important truths. You hit the nail exactly on the head when you say that *solicitude* is one of my great foibles. It is indeed so. I have been a prey to it all my life, and I am sensible it increases upon me. I have not the least doubt that if I would set resolutely about practising upon your prescriptions, it would afford me very sensible relief, and probably be the means of lengthening my life.

LETTER OF NOVEMBER 13, 1837.

I know of no individual in the circle of my acquaintance from whom I anticipate such heart-felt satisfaction at the result of the recent election in this State as from your good self. It indeed astonishes everybody, both friend and foe. What poor Van Buren and his Cabinet will now do it is impossible to conjecture. I think this is a decisive

and irresistible blow to his popularity and future political prospects. I have nothing to say in his favor. But I cannot yield my conviction that Mr. Butler, the Attorney General and a member of his Cabinet, is an *honest man*, and means to promote the welfare of the country. Heretofore I have generally been in the habit of forming a ticket for myself, selected from all the tickets, without reference to party. But on the present occasion I voted the entire Whig ticket.

NOTE: "The great panic of 1837 dealt a blow at the administration, [of Mr. Van Buren], in the first year of its existence." Stanwood's *History of Presidential Elections*.

NEW YORK, 8th Jany., 1838.

MY DEAR SIR:

. . . I do not give myself much trouble about the question of slavery, by which this country is at present so much agitated. As an individual, I detest slavery in every shape. But I cannot yield to the propriety of interfering with the rights of others in this respect. . . .

I tender you sincere congratulations on the return of a new year. With the commencement of it, I have resolved to turn over a new leaf, in at least two respects, the one is to take more *exercise*, and the other is to read less *Greek*. I walk regu-

larly about six miles a day, and I already experience the benefit of it. As for Greek, strange to say, I have contracted as much fondness for it as a drunkard for strong drink. I began it during the Cholera of 1832, and have continued it ever since. During that time, I have read Æsop's Fables twice, Jacob's Greek Reader twice, the Septuagint three times, the Iliad twice, the Odyssey once, Græca-Majora and Minora, all Xenophon's writings, Herodotus and the Greek Testament, which latter I have read thro I know not how many times. I believe this language to be the most philosophical and perfect, and at the same time the most difficult, of any that ever existed. I am now by no means able to read a Greek author with the same facility that I can read English, with the exception of a very few, such as Xenophon, and the Greek Testament, and the Septuagint. There is no comparison between reading the Greek Testament and the English translation, as it regards the understanding of the author. There are innumerable beauties in the former which cannot be discovered in the latter. Besides, there is scarcely a page which is correctly translated, and yet, if I had the power, (so great an enemy am I to innovation), I would not alter a single word in the present translation, excepting

always one verse which is contained in 1 Cor., 7 chap., 36 verse. This is abominably translated. I once called the attention of Sereno E. Dwight to it and asked him what it meant. He frankly admitted he had no idea of it. I then told him the exposition of it given by Valpey, in his edition of the Greek Testament, and showed him how perfectly the original justified that exposition, at which he was very much and agreeably surprised. This edition of Valpey, (who was one of the greatest Greek scholars that ever lived, and who is recently deceased), is in three volumes, with very copious notes in English, Latin and Greek, mostly of the former, and I have always considered it as *the most valuable book in the world*. I now limit myself to reading two chapters in the Greek Testament, or Septuagint, every weekday, and no more. On Sunday, I indulge myself in reading as much as I please.

As to the writings of Homer, there is something about them *peculiarly* great. I must say that, contrary to most others, and far better judges than myself, I prefer his Odyssey to the Iliad. I have read several of Scott's novels, and been delighted with them, but my feelings were never excited to anything like what I experienced in reading the Odyssey.

Now, my good sir, I have been imperceptibly betrayed into writing you a *Greek* letter, which I fear will give you no interest whatever. If so, please to excuse it and frankly tell me so, and I will trouble you in *this way* no more.

Give my love to your daughters, and wish them a happy New Year from me. My health is now much better.

Yours very truly,

GEO. W. STRONG.

JOHN N. LLOYD, ESQ.

NOTE: Other evidence of Mr. Strong's wide appreciation of literature is his traditional amusement over the *Pickwick Papers*, especially the *Bardell Trial*, which he is said to have perused repeatedly, and to have been delighted with, particularly the portrait of the presiding Judge.

LETTER OF JANUARY 25, 1838.

The passage to which I referred in my last, and of which you desired me to give Mr. Valpey's exposition, is to this effect. . . . But, with all submission to the opinion and better judgement of others, I cannot read some passages of St. Paul, (and this among others), without coming to the conclusion that he thought it was better to avoid marriage, although he certainly nowhere goes to

the extent of saying or intimating that it is sinful to marry, and therefore I have more charity for Monks and Nuns than many others. It is no answer to my mind to say that he puts his objections upon the peculiar state of the Infant Church at the period when he wrote. His reasoning appears to me to have a much broader basis, extending to all times and all circumstances in life. He appears to me to put himself upon the broad ground that marriage is, in itself, an impediment to vital purity. Perhaps I am wrong in this view, and I know that all commentators labor very hard to put another construction upon his writings, whether satisfactory or not everyone should judge for himself.

LETTER OF FEBRUARY 17, 1838.

I have read Scott's account of the Napoleon Code, and like what he says on the subject very much. I do not think, however, he does it entire justice. The truth is that the French Code of Commercial Law is the most celebrated of any extant, and the compilers did little else to this branch of the subject than reduce to order and arrangement the materials already prepared for

them. In this respect, neither Bonaparte nor those whom he employed were entitled to much credit. But the Code itself, is, in my humble opinion, entitled to more praise than Scott bestows upon it. I am free, however, to confess that I am prejudiced against Scotch lawyers. Don't you recollect that when you went to St. Croix, (which I think was in the winter of 1820), I got you to attend to a piece of business there for me? It had then been under my care for three years. It is *now* pending in the highest court of Scotland, and not long since the case was decided by Jeffrey, (the great critic, and a Judge, and a Lord). Such a decision I never saw before. One would judge from it that he understood everything but law. It became necessary to appeal from his decision, which has since been *reversed*. But, for the last six or seven years, my correspondence with Scotch lawyers has disgusted me with their legal notions. The question was simply whether the courts in Scotland would give effect to a decree regularly obtained in our Court of Chancery, and Lord Jeffrey, in the plenitude of his wisdom and legal lore, decided it was not even *prima facie* evidence of indebtedness. I have a large pamphlet containing his decision, and the arguments of counsel, in which Chancellor Wal-

worth and your friend Robert Tillotson are represented in no enviable light. I mention this as the reason why, perhaps, I cannot do entire justice to Scott's criticism of the Napoleon Code.

I think your friend, Mr. Webster, is rather losing ground, as it regards his prospect for the next Presidency, and that Clay seems to be the more likely to supplant him. The action of the Legislature of Rhode Island was quite unexpected. But, after all, I would rather be Webster than Clay, and I believe the former to be the greater man of the two. But whether either will ever be President is highly doubtful. Do you know that Van Buren is losing ground fast? The reason assigned surprises me. It is said that, however competent he may be to govern a party, yet that he is incompetent to the task of conducting the affairs of a nation, and that, in this respect, he has disappointed the expectations of his best friends. I always supposed that the want of talents could never be properly laid to his charge, however deficient he might be in other respects. On the subject of the currency, I cannot persuade myself that he is not, in the main, correct. I do not allude to his Sub-Treasury system, but to his opposition to the multiplication of banks,

and his want of confidence in their safety and permanency.

NOTE: Francis Jeffrey, (1773-1850), editor of the Edinburgh Review, became a Judge of the Court of Session, taking his seat on the bench as Lord Jeffrey on June 7, 1834. This is the supreme Court of Scotland. Appeals lie from it to the House of Lords.

LETTER OF MARCH 10, 1838.

I intimated to you some time ago that this Spring I contemplated to dissolve my connection with my present partners. This dissolution will take place on the first of next month, after which I do not intend to work so hard. My motive arises principally from my son, who will in the course of a few months come into the office, and for whom I wish to build up a little establishment by the time he is admitted to the bar. My means are not very ample, but the interest is a little more than what is necessary for my support, and while I avoid loss of principal I am not desirous of adding to it.

LETTER OF APRIL 3, 1838.

I am in receipt of your letter of the 24th ult^o with the Scotch law-pamphlet.

So you think Montgomerie ought not to pay the money due to the Southgates. Of all the suits that I have ever had, none has troubled and vexed me as much as this, and candor requires me to add that my feelings are so highly excited that I am not an impartial judge of the merits of the controversy. But if the case is fresh in your recollection, I should like to be favored with a view of your reasons in favor of Montgomerie. The controversy, I take it for granted, will never be abandoned until it has been decided by the House of Lords in England, which is the tribunal of last resort, and by which a great many appeals from Scotland are decided, and most generally reversed.

LETTER OF MAY 11, 1838.

I have now commenced on my new establishment, and on my own hook. But I fear I have only jumped out of the frying-pan into the fire. I intended and expected to do but little business, rather for employment than profit. But thus far I have found a very decided increase of pressure to an extent as unexpected as it is undesirable. But I console myself with the hope that at this season there is always a press of law business, which usually subsides as the warm weather advances.

LETTER OF JULY 4, 1838.

George is now undergoing his last and final examination in College. When that is over, I hope to avail myself somewhat of his services, and look forward to it as one of the principal means of my relief. At other times, I feel half inclined to shut up the office, and discontinue business, but that again would be attended with serious difficulties. My desire is to do less business, and yet I cannot make up my mind to decline it, when it is offered. My fear is that my health will give way under it.

My love to your daughters. I feel seriously and deeply for Angelina. She is about to take a step upon which her future destiny must essentially depend, and which will be either for better or worse, but of the importance of which she, of course, can have no adequate conceptions. Mary seems to have made up her mind to remain *in statu quo*, and as long as she seems to be perfectly contented with it, I am by no means prepared to say it is not for the best.

LETTER OF JULY 31, 1838.

I was very happy of the opportunity of being made acquainted with M^r Higbie by means of

your letter of introduction. I found him to be all that I could wish. He obviously has seen a great deal of men and manners, and has profited well of the opportunities which he has had. He is remarkably good looking, and of very gentle, manly manners. There is certainly every prospect that his union with your family will prove a source of lasting and real happiness to you and your daughter, for which you all have my best and most sincere wishes. When *the day* is fixed, if you will let me know a few days, say a week, previously, I will do myself the pleasure to be present, and I assure you that no ordinary occurrence shall prevent me. . . .

George has entered my office, but will not commence his attendance till after his Commencement, which takes place the beginning of October next. He has the Latin Salutatory, the composition of which he has just completed. Notwithstanding all his hard study, he comes off *second best*. But as there is no evil without its corresponding good, if properly improved, so I hope he will learn from his defeat a lesson at least of humility. He has, however, studied as hard and as faithfully as I could wish, and done all in his power to gain success. Professor Anthon does not hesitate to say that George was entitled to rank first, and so

voted, but was outvoted by the rest of the Faculty. His successful rival is now the Principal of the Academy in Utica, with a salary of \$800 a year, with the promise of having it speedily advanced to \$1500. George speaks most decidedly of his own preference for self-dependence alone, and I am by no means certain that the best course for him in the end would not be that he should now be cast friendless and penniless upon the world, and left to work his own way through it, so little is the value to be placed upon treasuring up riches for heirs! When he comes into the office to take an active part in the duties of it, I shall soon be able to solve the uncertain but most interesting problem, whether he will become a man of business. This I consider a *sine qua non*, without which his attainments and capacities, both mental and bodily, are, in my estimation, of but little value.

LETTER OF AUGUST 23, 1838.

If I recollect correctly, I have heard you speak of being, for a short time, many years ago, a fellow boarder of Horace Binney, Esq., of Philadelphia, and who now ranks as one of the most prominent and eminent lawyers in this country. His only son, now a lawyer of very handsome promise in

Philadelphia, is engaged to Miss Eliza Johnson, the second daughter of Mrs. Strong's sister. This match has been concocted at Newport, where the parties casually met at the same temporary boarding house. I really consider it a great match on the part of the young lady, and I have reason to believe that it is highly gratifying to her parents.

LETTER OF SEPT. 7, 1838.

I was somewhat disappointed to learn that your daughter had deferred her marriage till next Spring, but I have no doubt it was "for good and sufficient reasons." I say *disappointed*, for it seems a pity when parties are engaged, when everything seems to promise fair, and the period fixed for the solemnization, to defer it for any considerable length of time.

I regret to inform you that within the last few weeks I have had a recurrence of extreme dejection of spirits, to which, it would seem, I am periodically subject. The excessive hot weather, the absence of my family in the country, excessive attention to business, without a single day of relaxation, have probably conspired to produce this result. I know it is all wrong, and when I reflect on my course of life, and compare it with

yours, I am constrained to pronounce you a wise man, and myself but little short of a madman. Still I do not believe that my constitution is radically impaired. The bodily labor to which I was subject in early life laid the foundation of unusual health, but which, if it is to be continued, now calls for a good deal of care and more relaxation.

NEW YORK, 24th Sept., 1838.

MY DEAR SIR:

You are entirely right about my too severe application to business. Not a single day during the awfully hot weather, or since last May, have I taken to myself. This will not do, and I have been obliged to form a provisional partnership, (that is, provided both parties like it). The gentleman I have taken in with me is Mr. Bidwell from Upper Canada. You probably have heard something of his history. He was banished by Sir Francis Head during the late troubles. He had nothing whatever to do with the Rebellion there, as Head himself has admitted. . . . Mr. Bidwell is universally believed to be a persecuted man, and upon his coming into this State, our Supreme Court and Court of Chancery at once admitted him, (*in gratia*, and in direct violation of a standing

rule), to practise in all our Courts. I was applied to to take him into my office, and was very much pressed by his friends. I at first peremptorily refused, but the more I saw and heard of him the better I liked him, until finally I consented to take him on trial. He has been with me about ten days, and thus far I should be extremely unwilling to part with him. That he is a man of very superior talents and attainments, and of a most unblemished character, is admitted by everyone who knows him. Should he remain here in the profession for any length of time, I hazard nothing in predicting that he will become one of the first lawyers in this State. He is poor, and determined to make his way among us. Now, I am free to say that one motive with me has been to aid a very deserving man. George comes into the office next week. My clerks are all returned except one. My spirits have revived, and the prospect ahead looks favorable.

LETTER OF OCT. 19, 1838.

I have delayed writing you longer than I should have done, had I not latterly been engaged constantly in Court for the last six days. Your cousins, the Messrs Coles, have had a most glori-

ous battle in Court about the Harlaem Bridge, and have, on the whole, come off completely victorious. The trial was a very interesting one, and called forth every exertion which it was possible to make on both sides. Their opponents were the whole County of West Chester, who consider the bridge an odious monopoly which they wish to destroy in order to avoid paying Toll.

What do you think now of the University? I suspect your friend and kinsman, the Rev^d M^r Tappan, does not speak now quite as favorably of . . . as he used to do. I take no part in the quarrel. . . . Their present quarrel however has added most essentially to the number of students in the [Columbia] College. I really think I made a most fortunate escape when I declined a law professorship in the University. I cannot learn that at any time there have been more than 12 students attending the Law Lectures. . . .

M^r Hillhouse favored me also with a copy of his poem, and I wrote him a letter of thanks for it. Are you sure it is discreditable to him? You are a much better judge than I am on this subject, and I dare say you have read it with ten times the attention that I have. I thought it very much like other poetry, the best of which I never had

much taste for, and I see that the *New York Review* speaks of it in very high terms. M^r Borland, of Boston, informed me that a copy was sent to him.

What think you now of Van Buren's prospects? The Whigs appear to me to be getting in the back-ground. The plain truth of the matter is that the Democrats have the rabble on their side, and, under ordinary circumstances, they must have and retain the majority, and ascendancy. Such is the nature of our government, and, unless I am greatly deceived, here lurks the poison which will, sooner or later, destroy it. I take it for granted that at the approaching election in this State, the Whigs will be in large minority. Van Buren is the most adroit political leader that ever appeared in this country, and altho he may now and then miss a figure, he knows how, better than anybody else, to recover himself.

LETTER OF MARCH 9, 1839.

I duly received your letter of the 23rd ult^o, and subsequently the pamphlet of M^r Whipple, of the Legislature of Rhode Island. This pamphlet I have read with a great deal of pleasure. It is written with care and is well reasoned. I have

preserved it, and will return it to you whenever an opportunity presents. I know not what is to be the result of this Abolition excitement. There is not a man in the country who abhors slavery more sincerely than I do, and yet I confidently believe the Abolitionists are doing incalculable injury to the country and to the slaves themselves. I insist upon it that no man not residing in a slave State has any right to say to the Legislatures of such States that they shall abolish slavery, and the more the question is agitated, the more bent are the slave States in continuing the practice, and the slaves are treated with greater severity. On the other hand, I am equally opposed to the system of colonization in Africa. We cannot remove them as fast as the slaves increase in this country, and who can tell how many deaths have been caused by this project. The truth is, the excitement is produced, in both cases, chiefly by the pride of opinion, and a set of hirelings who are paid for going about the country and making proselytes. I have no patience with either, and the same remark applies to a great many voluntary associates in high repute in this country. I am fully satisfied that, on the whole, they produce evil rather than good, and I for one will contribute no more money to aid their objects. I

have read a part of Mr. Clay's speech. Like everything else from his pen, it is of the highest order of intellect, and I must confess that I assent to the truth of what he says. Your friend Mr. Webster seems to be getting somewhat in the background. . . . I have read Mr. Verplanck's opinion. It is a very able one, and establishes an important principle in Marine Insurance. It strikes me as *new*, that is, it may be a clear deduction from other principles previously established, but the inference itself I have never before seen stated, which is the more to the credit of Mr. Verplanck. . . . Brothers Benjamin and Joseph and myself, this day week, left here on a visit to Brother Thomas. We found him better in bodily health than we expected.

LETTER OF MARCH 20, 1839.

I return you herewith M^r. Whipple's dissentient Report, and as a fit companion for it, I send you the Boston *Atlas*, containing a letter addressed by Harrison Gray Otis to M^r. Whipple on the subject of his Report. This letter strikes me as a masterly production of a very superior order. Its composition is excellent, and the principles advanced appear to me to be full of the most important truths, and

entirely correct. Mr Whipple may well be proud of such a compliment, and say *laus a laudato*.

LETTER OF MARCH 25, 1839.

The letter of Mr. Otis, . . . strikes me as the work of a consummate master. I would rather be the author of it than of any production I ever read from Webster, Clay or Calhoun, because I think it contains more important truths. If I were required to explain my views respecting the Abolition excitement, I would take that letter and say that I adopt it *in toto*, and would add, with a great deal of truth and sincerity, that I could not say half as much, nor a twentieth part as well, *yet being said*, I can discover nothing in it which does not receive my entire and hearty approbation.

LETTER OF APRIL 4, 1839.

I feel gratified to learn that you think favorably of the juvenile piece which I sent you. Altho I am not disposed to go the length of the commendation which you bestow upon it, yet it struck me somewhat favorably, and as I have great confidence in your judgement and perfect candor, I

concluded to take the liberty of asking your opinion respecting it. You doubtless suspected that George wrote it. He read it during his Junior year before the Society of which he was a member, and one of the members having a brother who edited the newspaper in which it appeared, and who probably was rather short of original matter, and not very competent to make it, got the piece and had it published.

LETTER OF APRIL 24, 1839.

I fear I have lately done a very foolish thing, in consenting to serve as one of the Commissioners of the School fund in this city. There is no compensation attached to it, and I was induced to accept because I was told that I have done very little if anything in my life to serve the public. Tomorrow I have to devote the entire day to it, which is, at this time, excessively inconvenient, as I know not how I can leave my office. It will take about one entire day per month, the year round. You see therefore I have been fool enough to accept a very humble office, without any compensation, and which is to consume a good deal of time.

LETTER OF MAY 14, 1839.

I return you your Greek with George's translation. Although the translation is correct, yet it falls infinitely short of the beauty and sublimity of the original. Who is Justice Williams? I know of no judicial character of that name, except the present C. J. of Connecticut, and I should hardly suspect him of such classical taste and sublimity. I consider the original most beautiful.

Tonight Miss Johnson is to be led to the altar. I understand there are great preparations, and that there is to be a grand display. All the Binneys arrived yesterday, consisting of father, mother, three sisters and two brothers, accompanied by a Philadelphia Groomsman. I would give a trifle if I could be excused from this ceremony. Poor Mary, I think, has the horrors on the occasion. But there is no backing out.

LETTER OF MAY 30, 1839.

Miss Johnson's wedding went off very well, and, altogether contrary to my expectation, I spent a very pleasant evening. I had previously formed precisely the same opinion of the elder Mr. Binney which you expressed. But it was entirely errone-

ous. I found him one of the most agreeable, unassuming gentlemen I ever met with. One is at home and perfect ease with him at the first moment of introduction to him. I could not but remark the striking contrast between him and . . . , who was one of the guests, the former presenting the dignity of a perfect gentleman, and the latter descending to the level of a fool, or, rather, talking and acting without the least regard to self-respect. The elder Mr. Binney and his eldest daughter were by far the most prominent objects of admiration. She is said to be very highly accomplished, and possessed of great literary acquirements. She sang in French and Greek, and is said to be a great proficient in various languages. Mrs. Ledyard, whom you know, and who was present, speaking to me of the elder Mr. Binney said: "He is the finest looking of any of his family, but don't you tell Mrs. Johnson that I said so." Mrs. Wells said Mr. Beach Lawrence says that young Mr. Binney is the greatest match in the United States!!! The truth is that the bridegroom is not very good looking, and is excessively diffident. . . . But he is certainly a young gentleman of great promise. With the elder Mr. Binney I had much conversation, and as he has lately returned from a European tour,

he told me much about the Courts and present Judges in England. In the course of the day, I had learned from Mr. Bidwell that Mr. Williams, the writer of the Greek epitaph, was one of the present justices of the Queens Bench, that he was one of the Counsel of Queen Caroline, on her trial, and highly distinguished himself on that occasion, being associated with Brougham and Denman, the present Chief Justice of the Queens Bench. I took occasion to inquire of Mr. Binney respecting him, who spoke of him in the highest terms, and says he holds a high rank among the present twelve judges of England, but he mentioned as a remarkable fact that C. J. Denman holds a very low rank.

LETTER OF JUNE 17, 1839.

I believe I have never told you how I get along with the duties of a Commissioner of the Public Schools in this City. I have now visited nearly every one of these schools on this Island, and I must say that I have been gratified in the highest degree. There are upwards of 11,000 scholars, and the sum distributed this year is upwards of \$120,000. The system of instruction, and the discipline of the scholars, are admirable. . . . The examination of this Institution for the Blind

is alone well worth a journey of a hundred miles. On the whole, I am delighted with this office, the sole compensation for which is the hack hire and refreshments of the Commissioners.

NEW YORK, June 22nd, 1839.

MY DEAR SIR:

. . . I have read Mr. Verplanck's speech with great attention, and I readily admit that it is a great production, exhibiting very expansive powers of mind, deep thinking, great learning and talents. But I cannot agree with him. He is avowedly a reformer, though he says only upon a moderate scale, but far too much so for my views. The spirit of reformation is rife in this country as well as elsewhere. It pervades everything, both in church and state. . . . The great *desideratum* in regard to the law is that, when a question arises, the party interested should have it in his power, by consulting a lawyer, to ascertain with certainty his rights and liabilities. This is impossible where the laws are perpetually changing, for this very obvious reason, a law is a general rule, without attempting, (which would be utterly in vain), to provide for the infinite variety of cases arising under it. This is the exclusive province of Courts of justice. It is therefore only when the law has stood *a long time*,

and the Courts have given many successive decisions under it, that its provisions are defined and settled so as to be a guide for future cases. I dare say you do not appreciate the force of this, and none but a practicing lawyer can do it. This maxim is wholly lost sight of. The laws as they now exist are well enough, if we would only abide by them, and stick to them. But we want efficient and learned Judges. We have also by far too many lawyers. Every lawyer must have business, and for the sake of getting it, he will improperly encourage litigation. This is altogether the fault of the Courts, in not being more rigid in licensing lawyers, and in punishing them for misconduct. We multiply our Judges in order to dispatch business, but this, singular as it may appear, is a great mistake. The more Judges there are, the more justice is delayed and the greater the expenses, because the system facilitates appeals from one Court to another. Most of our important causes are now carried to the Court of Errors. But if we had Judges who would command the public confidence, this evil would be prevented. You have no idea of the difference between the present system (introduced by the new Constitution in 1822) and the one that preceded it. It seems to be admitted on all hands that the present plan will not answer, and

our legislators are now, from session to session, engaged in devising a new one. My plan is to go back to the former system. But this course will certainly not be adopted. I have no doubt a thoroughly [new] plan will be adopted, and probably far worse than the present. We entirely overlook the all-important fact, that law is one of the most delicate machines that ever was devised. It cannot be touched without the most eminent hazard of injuring if not destroying it. I very often think of what Pope says on this subject, which is somewhat in these words:

We think our fathers fools, so wise we grow,
No doubt our wiser sons will think us so.

I have carefully preserved the newspapers containing Mr. Verplanck's speech, and will return them to you when I have an opportunity.

My love to Phoebe.

Yours very truly,

GEO. W. STRONG.

JOHN N. LLOYD, ESQ.

LETTER OF SEPTEMBER 24, 1839.

That your proposition will be most readily acceded to, I entertain no doubt whatever. But, let

me here give you a caution, once for all, which may be of service to you in case I should be no more, and that is, never to enter into any arrangement with the principal debtor for the extension of a debt, without the previous knowledge and consent of the surety, manifested by writing, for the moment you do so you discharge the surety. I of course mean *such an extension as debars the creditor in the meantime of his right to sue for the debt*. If, after what I have said, you think it best to extend the loan by *positive agreement*, (for simply letting matters rest as they are, without any such agreement, can have no injurious effect), you had perhaps better let me attend to it for you.

LETTER OF JANUARY 2, 1840.

I do not like at all the symptoms described in your letter, and I will take it as a particular favor if, on the receipt of this, you will write me, saying how you are. . . . The weather was almost as cold yesterday, and I found it very uncomfortable in making the usual calls. I made 38, and was heartily glad when I was through, as they extended from the Battery to 14th Street. Among others, I saw your daughter, who appeared to enjoy herself very much.

LETTER OF JANUARY 9, 1840.

I now enclose you your Will, which I have endeavored to draw in strict conformity with your instructions. You will, of course, read and examine it very attentively and critically, and, if you find it entirely correct, you will then put a seal to it, and execute it in the presence of two disinterested witnesses, who will be careful to notice that what is stated in the attestation clause is strictly complied with. I have intentionally omitted to put a seal to it, presuming that you would prefer wax, with the impress of your seal containing your family armorial. If incorrect in any respect, I beg you not to execute it till it is made in every respect conformable to your wishes.

LETTER OF JANUARY 16, 1840.

I write you in consequence of the awful calamity off your Coast on Monday night last, of which you have doubtless heard. I make no apology for this, as I know that no person can be more willing or disposed than yourself to do all that a regard to the surviving friends and relatives may require. I write more particularly in reference to Charles W. Woolsey and a Mr. Henry, who were passengers

and doubtless perished. . . . The question may naturally arise, what is to be done with regard to any bodies which may be driven ashore. It occurs to me that the following would be proper. The Coroner should be called to hold an inquest over the body, but it is not necessary, humane or right, (notwithstanding the vulgar prejudice to the contrary), that the body should remain in the place in which it is found till the Coroner has held the inquest. Let it be carefully removed to some neighboring house. The Coroner will examine the papers, if any, found with the body, and ascertain, if practicable, the name and residence of the deceased. If the residence be distant, probably a temporary interment should be made, and information communicated forthwith to the place of residence. If in this city, the interment had better be deferred till information can be sent here.

LETTER WITHOUT DATE.

Mrs. Hamilton was in my office yesterday, and mentioned a very interesting fact, the truth of which I cannot doubt, viz: that her husband wrote the whole of General Washington's Farewell address. She says her husband read it to her in manuscript before it was submitted to Washing-

ton, that he returned it to Hamilton, desiring some slight alterations, which the latter made, that she read Washington's letter returning the Address and desiring the alterations, and that she has no doubt she now has the letter in her possession, and can find it if necessary. She also says that her husband wrote the greater part of General Washington's communications to Congress. I would thank you not to mention these matters, at least not in connection with her name, for although no secrecy was enjoined, yet she might not like to be quoted for the truth of them.

LETTER OF AUGUST 26, 1840.

A few days ago, I met Chancellor Kent in the street, and put to him the question which you desired. He said the fact was so, and that General Hamilton made on that occasion the greatest effort he ever witnessed in his life. He stated that he attended the Convention every day during its session. I remarked to him he must then have been quite a boy. To which he said, no, and that he was then 25 years old. When I afterwards reflected on this subject, I found he was correct as to his age. He was constitutionally superannuated and left office in 1823. He was therefore born in 1763,

which made him 25 in 1788. I have not yet seen Mrs. Hamilton personally. Whenever I do so, I shall have your request in remembrance.

NOTE: The preceding refers to the New York Convention of 1788, in which Hamilton won over the Convention to ratifying the proposed U. S. Constitution.

NEW YORK, 23rd September, 1840.

MY DEAR SIR:

I duly received your letter of the 11th inst. I must be allowed to apologise to you for my apparent neglect, and confess that I am not fit to carry on a correspondence of friendship. My business letters I always answer forthwith, with them before me. As I write you periodically, or intend to do so, the contents of your last often escape my memory. . . . I also neglected to answer your inquiries respecting my recollections of General Hamilton. I came to this City in November and he died the July following. I never spoke to him but once, and that was while he was in Court, when, at the request of Judge Benson, I asked him for some papers. I never heard him speak but once, when he defended a person in the Sessions who had been indicted for perjury. Daniel D. Tompkins was then the District Attorney, and made a very indifferent speech compared with Hamilton, who

made a very splendid one, and I well recollect that, as soon as he was through, he left the Court, without waiting to hear Tompkins' reply. I have long been acquainted with the misunderstanding between Generals Washington and Hamilton, and I presume I have read the letter to which you refer, in the life of Hamilton by his son. I have also heard Mrs. Hamilton speak of it. It occurred at Newburgh, shortly after Hamilton's marriage. I never before understood that General Washington was to blame in this matter. He had directed Hamilton to do something, which the latter thought proper to defer until he had done something else, for which General Washington took him to task, and which Hamilton resented. At least such is my impression in regard to it. I have been in the room in which this took place.

I frequently see Hamilton's writing among law papers. He wrote a beautiful hand, having been brought up in a merchant's counting room. I have had in my possession for the last two years Peter Remsen's title papers, which I returned about a month ago, and among them, I recollect, was a deduction of title made out in Hamilton's handwriting. This paper is now of no value, and if you wish it, I presume I can without difficulty procure it for you. . . . I am very glad to hear through

Mr. Gould that you went to Patchogue to hear Mr. Webster. To be candid with you, I had serious thoughts of writing you a letter urging you to go, and was deterred from it by the apprehension that, owing to your fondness for home, it would be of no use. I hope you got a place where you could hear him distinctly. If you did, I will venture the prediction that you were so delighted with him as to induce you to go to Jamaica tomorrow to hear him again. I should like very much to learn what you think of Webster's speech. I anticipate that you will be in raptures with it. Having heard him, you may safely say that you have heard one of the first, (if not the very first), public speakers in this or any other country. . . . What think you of Van Buren's prospects now? I think the chances are against him. But he is decidedly the *first* partisan in this country, and I still fear that he will yet successfully rally his forces. I do not enter very heartily into this controversy. I am disgusted with the course pursued by the Whigs in courting popular favor, that is, in imitating precisely, though it would seem at present more successfully, the policy of their opponents. A Loco Foco not long since told me that the Whigs *had stolen their thunder*, and I think the remark was perfectly correct. The present course of both par-

ties I consider as very unpropitious to the perpetuity of our Republican form of government. What think you of the propriety of the grave Senators of the United States turning stump orators, and in that character perambulating the whole country? Do you think that such an anticipation ever entered the minds of the framers of the Constitution, in defining their qualifications? I think not, and in this respect both parties are equally culpable.

Yours very truly,

GEO. W. STRONG.

JOHN N. LLOYD, ESQ.

NOTE: The last part of this letter refers to General Harrison's "hard cider" campaign, celebrated for Tippicanoe, the log cabin, and the Rolling Ball.

LETTER OF DEC. 10, 1840.

Dr. McVickar of Columbia College says that the last election is the greatest event that has ever happened in this country, since the adoption of the Federal Constitution, and he assigns this reason for it, viz., that it has been maintained that the Radicalism of Europe and the Democracy of this country were identical, but that the late election has proved that there is a wide difference between the two, and although it may be considered as certain that the Radicalism of Europe will eventu-

ally lead to the overthrow of the existing governments there, yet that better hopes may be indulged of the democracy here. I wish I could believe in the soundness of his conclusion. It appears to me that the election of Harrison is to be attributed more to log cabins, hard cider, and his reputation and popularity as a soldier, coupled with the odium arising from the bad policy of the present administration, than to the good sense and sound discernment of the people. I think something of the same popular character must attach to every future successful candidate for the presidency, and that, therefore, the chance for either Webster or Clay is very remote. General Scott, I should think, would be the most eligible candidate which the Whigs could bring forward, although, in point of real qualifications, he is not to be compared with either of the two just mentioned. Surely nothing made Jackson president but the battle of New Orleans. Harrison has succeeded pretty much in the same way, and Scott has been very successful in his military operations.

NEW YORK, 31st Decr, 1840.

MY DEAR SIR:

I am in receipt of your letter of the 21st inst., and I had promised myself the pleasure of seeing

you here before this time. But I understand that you were prevented from coming by the lamented death of your friend, Cap^t Sands. I am gratified to learn that the dressing case reached you in safety and good order, and that you are pleased with it. It is not of much real value, but as a memento it is, with proper care, calculated to be as enduring as any article which I could think of.

Since I last wrote you, Mrs. Hamilton has been repeatedly at my office. The first time she came she said to me: "The gentleman for whom I gave you those autographs has written me a letter, and it is the most beautiful letter I ever saw in my life. I was highly gratified by it." I give you her very words, according to my best recollection, for they ought to be very acceptable to you, especially if you consider that she is a very competent judge, that she has seen in the course of her long life as many well written letters as almost any other person living, and that she would not, for any consideration, say what she did not conscientiously believe. I have since repeatedly perused the copy of it which you sent me, and you will allow me to say, in perfect sincerity, that it was a very happy effort, even for your classical pen, and that it evinces consummate judgment, taste and tact. The old lady says she has been here long enough,

and that it is high time for her to put everything in order for her departure hence. I have accordingly lately re-written over her Will for the third time, and as on both of the previous occasions she paid me much more than I charged, I told her that, on this, she must permit me to have my own way, and do the service without any compensation. But she determined not to be outdone in this respect, and has submitted to me various manuscripts in the handwriting of her husband. The first is a letter addressed by him to Col. Laurens, then in France, giving a very particular account of the treason of Arnold, the capture, trial and execution of André, and of various personal interviews with him prior to his execution. This is a most interesting letter, and I presume has never been published. It is very long and minute, covering 17 pages. I ventured to get Mary to make a copy of it. The second is a eulogy pronounced by General Hamilton before the Society of Cincinnati on the character and services of General Greene, and which I understand has never been published. This is a beautiful specimen of eloquence, though I think not as much so as the letter to Col. Laurens. The third was a letter written by Hamilton while in St. Croix, in 1769, when he was 11 years old. In this letter he com-

plains of the drudgery of a merchant's counting room, and says that nothing but his poverty compels him to submit to it, that he aimed at something far higher, and expressed a firm determination to obtain it, but that he never would sacrifice character, which he considered as paramount to every other consideration, and he concludes his letter by saying: "Now, Neddy, you may consider this as building castles in the air, but such is my deliberate purpose." I should say that this letter, considering his extreme youth, is the most interesting production which I ever saw from the pen of Hamilton, for it shows that even then the plan of his future life was formed, and how thoroughly he executed it you need not be told. The fourth was a letter written three years afterwards, in 1772, when he was 14 years old, and is addressed to Mr. Cruger, in whose counting room he then was. Cruger was then absent from the West Indies and had left young Hamilton in charge of his mercantile establishment. The letter gave an account of his operations, and subjoined to it is a copy of a letter of instructions given by him to one of Cruger's captains, then about to sail on a voyage. Probably better or more perfect mercantile letters could not be penned by any merchant of the present day in this city. The two last letters Mrs. Hamilton ex-

pressed a desire to take away with her, and I had only an opportunity to peruse them once. The other two papers she left with me, and I read them repeatedly and very attentively before returning them. I detained them one day longer than I intended, in the hope that I should see you, and submit them to your perusal, as I am sure you would be much delighted and interested. It seems that all General Hamilton's manuscripts are to be placed in the hands of Dr. Hawkes for publication, and that the public will have an opportunity to peruse them. I have been somewhat particular on this subject, supposing it would be gratifying to you. . . .

Yours very truly,

GEO. W. STRONG.

JOHN N. LLOYD, ESQ.

NEW YORK, January 26, 1841.

MY DEAR SIR:

I have lately been credibly informed that Chancellor Kent has stated that last summer Mr. Webster dined with him at his country residence in New Jersey; that he eat too much and drank too much; that he drank an enormous quantity of wine, and afterwards drank nearly a tumblerfull

of raw brandy. It is added that the Chancellor, in telling the story, burst into tears. A day or two since, I happened in company with him, and wished to ascertain whether the story was true, but deemed it improper to make any direct allusion to it. I, however, spoke of the reports unfavorable to Mr. Webster's habits, when the Chancellor said to me: "He eats and drinks altogether too much. His favorite drink is brandy and water, which he makes very strong. His constitution is ruined, although it was originally an iron one. He has been very sick, and I expect daily to hear that he has had a stroke of apoplexy or paralysis." I therefore conclude that the reports of Mr. Webster's habits are too well founded, and that his earthly career is nearly finished. I did not infer from what the Chancellor said that he was now particularly ill, but that the general state of his health was very bad. . . .

My son George attains his majority this day. On the whole, his conduct in my office has been very satisfactory, and he has proved by far the most useful clerk I ever had. Doubtless this is attributable, in a great measure, to his being in his father's office, and that more would be expected of him on that account. Should no misfortune befall him, he bids fair to make a useful member of

society. He will be entitled to his license in July next. He has always evinced a great passion for music, which I am sure he never obtained from me. He has never taken a lesson in his life, and yet his performances on the organ and piano are very creditable. His mother, who has taken great pains to instil in him a fondness for music, has lately presented him with an organ which cost \$1250. It is a most splendid piece of furniture, and affords him much amusement. Music is a very innocent recreation, and I do not object that he should be gratified in this respect. I have with me now nine students, and I shall be much disappointed if some of them do not make highly respectable men. I take great pains with them, and give them regular examinations twice a week.

Yours very truly,

GEO. W. STRONG.

JOHN N. LLOYD, ESQ.

NEW YORK, 2nd February, 1841.

MY DEAR SIR:

. . . As I do not like to be instrumental in slandering any person, I think it proper to state to you that I have this morning had a conversation with David B. Ogden, relative to Mr. Webster's

habits, and he assures me that the reports which are so rife on this subject are entirely destitute of truth. He says Webster drinks wine, but not to excess. That in the course of his life he has been present on three or four occasions when he thought Webster drank more wine than a gentleman ought to drink. That when he was here last summer he was laboring under a bowel complaint, and was advised to drink brandy with sugar as a remedy. He says Chancellor Kent is entirely mistaken in what he freely and publicly states on this subject. Mr. Ogden has been very intimate with Webster for a long time, and has just returned from Washington. . . . The great failing of Chancellor Kent is that he is by far too free in speaking out whatever he feels, or believes, without any regard to the consequences. I give you Mr. Ogden's statement as an offset against Chancellor Kent's, and you can give such credence to either as you may think proper. Perhaps, however, the most prudent course is to say nothing on the subject, and that I have already said too much. But with you I know it is safe. I notice what you said in one of your letters, (some days ago), respecting Dr. Hawkes, and I entirely coincide with you in opinion. It seems that Mrs. Hamilton's children have found out that she has left the publication of the

General's papers to him, and are very much dissatisfied with it. . . .

The old lady has insisted on presenting me with a ring containing a lock of the General's hair, which I value very highly, as well on her as his account. I tell her I never wore a ring, but she says I can attach it to the seal and key of my watch, and wear it in that way.

Yours very truly,

GEO. W. STRONG.

JOHN N. LLOYD, ESQ.

NOTE: Mr. Strong wore the ring, just mentioned, upon his watch-chain during the remainder of his life, with his seal and key, and, according to his daughter, Miss Mary A. Strong, he used to twirl them about playfully, when he was seated and in conversation, and in a mood to interrogate his interlocutor. His gold watch and its ring and seal are still carefully kept by his descendants, the seal by Mr. Strong's great-grandson, Hasket Derby, Esq., a lawyer in practice in San Francisco, and the two others by the Editor of these letters.

Letters of Mr. Strong's Law-Student Days

Letters in Law-Student Days

MRS. SELAH STRONG TO GEORGE W. STRONG

November 29.

MY DEAR GEORGE:

I received your letter and was glad to hear you was all well, and so well suited with your Lawyer and with your board, and thank you a thousand times for your information you have given me. Nothing could [have] given me more joy in this world than that. I shall keep it a secret to my self.

M Ruggles died last Saturday, and young Smith the same day, M^r. [Monnet's?] clerk, and last week M^r. Green had a brother drowned, and James Kennen, a-crossing from New Haven to come here to see his brother.

In great haste; we are all well. Write as often as you can. My love to you all.

From your loving Mama,

A. STRONG.

Conklin has returned to stay at home.

GEORGE W. STRONG TO MRS. SELAH STRONG

NEW YORK, March 25th, 1805.

HON^d MADAM:

By Cap^t Hart I received your Letter, with six shirts and a pair of stockings, for which please to accept my best thanks.

I am very sorry to learn that you think it would give me any trouble to come and bring you down here in a Chair. I assure you I shall be very happy to come up after you, for we are all very desirous to see you here. The time when you will come is perfectly immaterial to me, and I would have you consult your own convenience. We, however, think that you had better come before May, for then it will be all confusion at Benjamin's. We also expect that this time you will make us a good, long visit. We have therefore thought that it would be most agreeable for me to set out after you this day fortnight, (which will be April 8th). But if any other time will suit you better, you will please to name it, for it will be equally convenient to me. By the 10th of April we shall expect Joseph home, and if you put off your visit until he gets settled, it will be not before June, when it will be so warm as to render the travelling quite uncomfortable. I will come up after you in Benjamin's

Chair, which will be very easy for you to ride down in. You need not give yourself any uneasiness about getting home again, for I shall be very happy to carry you back by land. When Cap^t. Hart returns, I wish you to mention the time when I shall come, and which, you will remember, is perfectly immaterial to me. I hope you will rest perfectly easy as to any trouble which you may think it will give me to come after you.

Margaret is very smart, and will be about house again before the time appointed for your coming. The little Daughter, (called Eliza Margaritta), does very well, and is not very cross. My best respects to Papa and the family, and believe me to be,

Hon^d Madam,
Your dutiful & much obliged Son,
GEO. W. STRONG.

MRS. ANNA STRONG.

NOTE: The Margaret mentioned is probably Mr. Strong's sister, who married Joseph Strong, a cousin, a lawyer in New York. It is very likely that Mr. G. W. Strong was then living with them in town. Compare with this letter the next preceding letter, also Benjamin Strong's letter dated Sept. 4, 1808, and Joseph Strong's letter of Oct. 14, 1805. For this Joseph Strong, who is not the brother of G. W. Strong, for Margaret Strong, and for Eliza Margaritta, who died in infancy, see Dwight's *History of the Strong Family*, vol. 1, pp. 620, 625, 671.

BENJAMIN STRONG TO GEORGE W. STRONG

NEW YORK, 24th Augt, 1805.
Saturday morning.

DEAR GEORGE:

I yesterday afternoon received a very friendly visit from our old and Reverend friend, Doct^r Rodgers, and what do you think was the object of it? It was nothing more or less than to endeavour to prevail on you to change your studies from the law to *Divinity*. He instances a great number of Clergymen who have changed even after they have been licensed, among them your friend Stewart. The old Gentleman appears very solicitous for the change, and I have promised him you shall call on him on the subject as soon as you return. It will therefore be well for you to reflect seriously on the subject, and make up your mind fully before you return. The old Gentleman says Lawyers now ride three on a Horse, and that the Church is very destitute of Ministers.

M^r Griswold and myself go tomorrow to Elizabeth Town to hear Selah S. Woodhull preach. I have a very pressing invitation from Doct^r Rodgers to Selah to get him to come over and preach for him on Friday evening, the 6th September.

I send a bundle of newspapers for you and Joseph, and the Museum for Sally. Give my love

to her, and tell her she must return more cheerful than she went away.

Give my love to the family, and all friends, and am, dear George,

Your affectionate brother,

BENJ. STRONG.

MR. GEORGE W. STRONG.

NOTE: This letter, like the following, is addressed to Mr. Strong at Setauket. Sally may have been either Benjamin's wife, Sarah Weeks Strong, or, more probably, his daughter, Sarah, aged 13. Mr. Griswold was doubtless his niece, Elizabeth Woodhull's, husband, George Griswold.

JOSEPH STRONG TO GEORGE W. STRONG

NEW YORK, Oct. 14, 1805.

D. GEORGE:

Another nonsensical letter is at your service, tho from the fatigue of the morning I can hardly hold my pen to write it. Well then, to fulfil promises is good. I started as proposed for Goshen, I arrived safe, found friends generally pretty well that I intended to visit there. I hastened to perform the *Hunt* I told you of, and the chase was a *successful one*. Never before did I see — look *half so well*; all was health, gaiety and friendship. I think we met *as friends ought to meet*, and were both equally glad to see each other. As far as related to the interest felt for *absent friends*, I could only

judge of this, you well know, from circumstances, and these spoke a favourable language. Some fear was expressed, (and with an honest innocence that seemed to despise reserve), that she should have to receive a *Lecture* from you for not having complied with your wishes, tho against her then pleasures, for Goshen perhaps never was more gay and lively than at this time, and therefore probably led her to forget something.

18th Oct^r. I was interrupted and prevented finishing the foregoing at the date thereof, and kept from it hitherto by some business and a little journey to Westchester—was down to Greenwich yesterday and Ferris went to Partition street. The reports are now pretty favourable; indeed, if this weather is continued, I hope we may get home soon. I am in doubt whether to come down the Island for Marg^t and children, or to trust them to your care to return home last of next week, or the week after, as you find the weather to be; if cold, and particularly if frosty, shall be glad to see you soon. I shall have the house opened and well aired next week, and fires made there. . . .

I am yrs &c.

JOS. STRONG.

NOTE: This letter is addressed, "at Judge Strong's, Setauket, Brookhaven, Suffolk Co., N. Y.," and is probably written, not by

Mr. Strong's brother, Joseph, but by his second cousin, Joseph Strong of New York City, who, as already mentioned, had married, in 1792, Mr. Strong's sister, Margaret Strong. The prevalence of fever in the City is described in another part of this letter, which accounts for Mr. Strong's absence at Setauket. Partition Street extended from Broadway to the North River, by St. Paul's Church, and was soon afterwards called Fulton Street. It is perhaps worth the suggestion that as Angelina Lloyd was born on Sept. 12, 1785, her age was then such as to correspond with the young lady mentioned in this letter.

GEORGE BLOOM TO GEORGE W. STRONG

POUGHKEEPSIE, Feb. 27, '04.

DEAR GEORGE:

I have been on a journey to the Northward about three weeks, which will sufficiently apologize for not writing you previous to this time. Your last I have received, and am much pleased with its contents, except one circumstance which hints a fear of Tappan's apostacy. I have heard no such reports. I charitably hope the report is not true. I will endeavour to learn its truth or falsity.

I shall not be the next one of our Class who is so foolish as to get married. Three years first. Do, for goodness' sake, tell me whom you was fond of in New Haven. You are an excellent hand to keep your own secrets.

Oakley is lazy, I believe, but I suppose he will make a "Lawyer" and not a "pettifogger," barely.

Having dispatched your queries, or rather briefly answered your interrogatories, I now will give you, in the first place, some account of the "news of the day." Burr is the universal, I mean the general, cry. On my way from Albany, last week, I made it my enquiry how the people were disposed towards Burr. In all places, I found he has an incredibly large number of political friends, in and about Poughkeepsie, and indeed throughout Dutchess County. If a few Federalists join, I am inclined to believe he will have a majority. Lewis, say great numbers, is a Livingston, and united to them by all the ties of nature and interest; that the destruction of the "Merchants Bank," and the erection of another on its ruins, (which from all accounts will clearly be the fact), is a piece of aristocracy and political depravity rarely to be found in the History of man; that the Clintons and Livingstons have exceeded all calculation in the enormity and flagrancy of their conduct. I am thus prolix, merely to give you what appears to be the honest sentiment of old Republicans. DeWitt Clinton was here this morning. He brings at once to my mind the celebrated Robespierre. His *mouth-piece*, Cap^t . . . has certainly not been conclusive in his Reply.

But, Politics aside, what is the state of religion in your heart? I confess, with shame, that I have to fear a loss of some part of the small stock which I hoped to possess when I left College. I am too frequently carried away with the love of the world, the hurries of business, and the critical juncture of political affairs. When I am alone and commune with my heart, it gives me pain and remorse of conscience to find myself, at least, stationary. I have been alone, truly alone, in this place, till now on my return I find William M. Smith, John's son, who, I hope, will be some company in my travels *Zionward*. He studies here till 1st May. I hear, this day, that Holley has relinquished the study of law, and commenced the more important study of Divinity. Is it true? What are his reasons? How long since he left you? Where is Woodhull? Is he to make a man?

If you hear from any of the Class, communicate it. I never scarcely hear. What were the last appointments, and who?

Your friend, in haste,

GEORGE BLOOM.

NOTE: George Bloom was Mr. Strong's room-mate at Yale. Oakley is Thomas Jackson Oakley, afterwards the distinguished Chief Justice of the Superior Court of New York City. Lewis is

Morgan Lewis, then Governor of New York who had married Miss Gertrude Livingston, sister of Chancellor Robert R. Livingston. General Hamilton's fatal duel with Colonel Burr, which substantially terminated the political life of the latter, occurred on July 11, 1804.

SELAH STRONG WOODHULL TO GEORGE W. STRONG

MONMOUTH COURT HOUSE, N. J.

April 17th 1804.

MY DEAR FRIEND:

I shall seize every leisure moment through this week to answer your letter of the 10th, received per the last Mail. In this week I must complete my preparations for Presbytery, and of course, you may expect, can have little time to spare; the little I have shall be first devoted to you and after you to other correspondents. Want of time will prevent my entering at all on our moral topics. . . . 19th. Yesterday I was from morning untill in the night absent on business which I could not avoid, although unpleasing; I seize a few leisure moments today to continue my letter. On Monday I start for Presbytery, who will probably dismiss me by the 27th. . . . I am much pleased that you appear disposed to accompany me down the Island; I had intended to propose it to you. My stay there must be short, not more than a week at farthest;

neither will I be able to remain long in N. Y. I am compelled, (almost), to defer the time of going there, and the necessity is not less that I be here early in June. It would be very pleasing to me to be in your society a longer time; I am sorry it is not in my view, *on the whole*, in the line of conduct most wise and prudent; should I find it in my power, I shall stay with pleasure. I leave it to you to make the necessary arrangements as to the time when, and the way in which, we go down the Island, yet I suppose there will be time sufficient after I come to N. Y. I think you may calculate to see me the 15th; I shall endeavour to inform you if I am obliged to use another time.

21st. Last night my preparations for trial closed, and I am now ready. I shall propose for examination on Moral and Natural Philosophy, Belles Lettres, Grammar, Astronomy and the whole course of Ecclesiastical History, and I have to read an Exegesis in Latin on the Question: "An fides, foederis gratia, conditio sit." . . .

This letter I expect to take with me to New Brunswick on Monday, should not the storm, (which is now at hand), prevent my starting. . . The wind is violent at N. E. and a storm appears about commencing; a gloomy prospect for my

jaunt, but I hope yet to be able to go on Monday.

Remember me to all friends.

I am affectionately,

SELAH S. WOODHULL.

M^R GEO. W. STRONG,

N^o 92 Nassau St.,

New York.

NOTE: The Revd. Selah Strong Woodhull, D.D., (1786-1826), was Mr. Strong's nephew, the son of Keturah, Mr. Strong's eldest sister. The two young men, as they were of not far from the same age, were in College together.

Miscellaneous Letters

Miscellaneous Letters

JUDGE SELAH STRONG TO GEORGE WASHINGTON
STRONG

BROOKHAVEN, 6 of April, 1809.

DEAR GEORGE:

The land that I proposed to buy for you went for more than I thought proper to give for it. I feel so anxious for the success of the insuing Election that I am not willing a single vote should be lost that can possibly be obtained. Therefore, to enable you to give your vote, you will Receive in this a Deed for a piece of land that I paid one hundred pounds for some years past, and there can be no doubt but would sell for more at present. Therefore you need not hesitate in taking the oath if Required. It appears by the proceedings at our Town meeting that there is all the Exertions making against the Federals that is possible. The rabble was so great, and the assistance of a few leaders, that all the Trustees and Supervisor and Assessors were chosen Democrats, tho it was fully believed that the Federal party present was the

most numerous, and could have defeated the others could they have been prevailed on to come forward amongst the Rabble. This will not discourage our party in coming forward to make Every Exertion in our power at the insuing Election. I desire you will ask Joseph to send me a peck of peas, to sow the first opportunity, as it is time I had them. I am,

Your affectionate father,

SELAH STRONG.

THE SAME

BROOKHAVEN, 29 of August, 1814.

DEAR GEORGE:

News reached us yesterday that the British has taken Washington City. If this be true, I shall almost be ashamed to be called an American, as we have been almost three years imployed in taking Canada, and have not gained a foot, and Great Britain, 3000 miles distant, has drove our King from his palace and taken his Capital. O; shame, shame to our Administration!

The [vacation?] in the school at Fairfield takes place on Friday next. I have directed William to take the stage and come to New York. I conclude he will be there on Saturday. He says that he fears

he cannot find your house. I wish you to send to the stage office about the time that the stage arrives, and if you can find him, take him home, and the first opportunity send him here by water. I expect Joseph here on Saturday next, when I hope he will bring us some agreeable news. My best love to Angelina and the children. I am,

Your affectionate father,

SELAH STRONG.

GEORGE W. STRONG TO MRS. SELAH STRONG

NEW YORK, 13th April, 1812.

MY DEAR MOTHER:

My dear Eloise has been very sick indeed, but we hope she is now materially better. On Sunday, the 5th Instant, about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, she began to breathe very strangely. Angelina and I were both with her, but we did not know what was the matter with her. We bathed her feet and legs in warm water, and gave her a portion of Physic, and she appeared to get better, but in the evening Angelina grew uneasy about her, and I went after D^r Borrowe. D^r Borrowe came about 11 o'clock, and was considerably alarmed. He staid with her while near 1. Next morning she was worse, and I went again after the Doctor very

early. He came and found her very ill indeed. He immediately proceeded to apply very violent remedies. He bled her, and took from her nearly a gill, and blistered her, and in the course of the day gave her 8 portions of Physic before it operated. She had a most raging fever, and breathed with the utmost difficulty. He visited her four times in the course of the day, and staid with her all night. On Tuesday she still continued very low. On Wednesday morning she began to get better, but in the afternoon she was taken the third time, as bad as ever. On Thursday morning she was so low that we called in D^r. Post as a consulting Physician. On Saturday, being the 7th day, her disorder appeared to turn, and she has since been doing very well.

D^r. Borrowe has been remarkably kind to us. He staid with us all night from Tuesday night till last night. He met D^r. Post in consultation at 10 in the morning, called again at 12, met D^r. Post again at $\frac{1}{2}$ past six in the afternoon, and then came again about 11, and staid all night. Had the child been his own, he could not have done more for it. D^r. Post is to attend again this morning, and then discontinue his visits unless the child should be worse.

The child has been remarkably good in taking its

medicine, but this morning it is *cross enough*. We are extremely careful with it, and keep a Thermometer in the room, so as to preserve an even temperature of the air.

Angelina has been the most disconsolate creature I ever saw, and although I was very much agitated about the child, yet at times I felt almost as uneasy about Angelina. All I could say to her appeared to have but very little influence in reconciling her to the death of the child. I myself several times completely dispaired of its life, and gave it up to almighty God, in the full persuasion that he would prove to it a kinder parent than I had been, and would render it eternally happy.

Next to a merciful Providence is my gratitude to Dr. Borrowe. I never can forget his kind and unremitted attention. He appeared determined, (if human means could be effectual), to save it. He says he never knew it more sickly here, except in Yellow Fever time, and never was more hurried, yet he appeared to give his principal attention to us. Five nights in succession did he stay with us, and would sit up with the child till 1 o'clock, and be up again the next morning at 6. He declares that of all the patients he has had with this complaint, he has not buried one since last October, and that at least 150 have been so low

that he has had to blister them, tho he says he thinks he has not seen one where the symptoms of the disease were so strongly marked as in Eloise. She is indeed a dear child to me, my only child, and therefore I determined to go as far as possible in the use of human means. In the course of one day she discharged nearly a pint of stringy stuff, which had been on her lungs and prevented her breathing.

Angelina, I tell her, is now too much exhilarated at the prospect of her recovery.

All last week I was unable, in a great degree, to attend to any business. This morning I am again enabled to be at my office. Selah has been very kind in attending to my business in my absence.

But altho I have reason to hope very favorably of Eloise, yet I must now tell you about poor Antoinette. Yesterday morning, about 5 o'clock, Joseph came to my house after D^r. Borrowe to visit Antoinette, who was attacked about 2 o'clock with substantially the same complaint. . . . As for my child, I view it almost as one raised from the dead. For, several times, I abandoned all hopes of its recovery.

I send this by M^r. Jayne and I will not close it until just as he leaves Town, when I will endeavour

to write you again how Eloise and Antoinette are.

Your affectionate son,

GEO. W. STRONG.

Monday afternoon.

3 o'clock.

I have just returned from dinner—left Eloise doing very well. She *has been crying for cake*. Antoinette is very much as she was in the morning, (I have just come from Joseph's). The truth is, it is not time yet for her disorder to turn. We do not think that she is in any immediate danger. I will write you again by the first opportunity.

NOTE: Antoinette was Mr. Strong's niece, the eldest daughter of his brother, Joseph; she recovered from this illness. Selah is, no doubt, the future Judge, Selah Brewster Strong, born May 1, 1792, and possibly, at this time, a student in Mr. Strong's office.

BENJAMIN STRONG TO GEORGE W. STRONG

BROOKHAVEN, Sept^r 4th, 1808.
Sunday Afternoon.

DEAR GEORGE:

. . . Yesterday Papa borrowed in Setauket the *Suffolk Gazette* of the 27th August, and the *Public Advertiser* of the 1st Sept^r, in each of which is a piece in Answer to yours published in the

Spectator of the 17th Aug^t. . . . It is Papa's wish that you should again answer them. If you have not seen the pieces, I presume you can obtain the papers in New York. Jonathan Thompson, I think, takes the *Suffolk Gazette*. If he does not, perhaps Sandford does. . . . We are all very well, and join in best love to you and the family at Margaret's, and am, dear George,

Your affectionate brother,

BENJ. STRONG.

GEORGE W. STRONG, ESQ.

NOTE: In this letter, to which reference is made elsewhere, Benjamin Strong entitles his brothers as "Brother" Joseph, etc., as was the custom in that family.

GEORGE W. STRONG TO ELIZA CATHERINE STRONG

TROY, Sunday evening, 7 O.C.

MY DEAR ELIZA:

We arrived at Albany, after a delightful passage, a little before 12 today. I remained there till after Church this afternoon, and then proceeded here, which brings me to the end of my journey. I am very well, and my attention too much engrossed with the approaching labors of tomorrow to think much about returning home. But as soon as the business is dispatched, I shall feel, I have no doubt,

uncomfortably anxious to get home. I see nothing to prevent my returning by the time mentioned, and have no doubt I shall then be with you.

As the Post Office is now closed, I shall have to charge you with the postage of this letter.

Kiss little George for me, and tell him to say Papa, also give my love to Eloise and Mary, and tell them they must be good girls, and believe me to be,

Most affectionately yours,

GEO. W. STRONG.

ELIZA CATHERINE STRONG TO GEORGE W. STRONG

FISHKILL, Thursday morning.

I received your letter, my dear husband, by Templeton, and am very glad to hear that you got home safe, and found your journey so pleasant. . . . I have taken two rides with Jane, and a long walk with Julia and George to the Creek which we passed in going to Melsingah. We stayed there some time, gathering wild flowers, and listening to the roar of the water as it rushed over the rocks. In our ride yesterday, we were over taken by the storm, but fortunately got home before it rained hard. Jane, I think, seems better

and stronger, but she still looks very thin. All the rest of the family are well.

Give my love to the girls and believe me,

Affectionately yours,

E. C. S.

P. S. George sends his love to you and his sisters.

NOTE: This letter may have been written in 1829. See No. 192 of Mr. Strong's MS. letters. Julia and Templeton may have been the children of Mrs. Strong's sister, Mrs. Johnson.

GEORGE W. STRONG TO ELOISE LLOYD STRONG

[This letter is not at present obtainable, but when found it may be inserted here, or on a fly leaf.]

ELOISE LLOYD STRONG TO GEORGE W. STRONG

LLOYD'S NECK, May 17th, 1828.

MY DEAREST FATHER:

We arrived here at twenty-five minutes after six o'clock, and would have been here much sooner had we not been detained on the road. We started from Brooklyn about a quarter after nine o'clock, with three passengers besides ourselves. The stage was drawn by three horses, and we led a horse of Mr. Goulds up, which afterwards proved a very fortunate thing. We stopped first at the Union House near Jamaica, merely to water the horses, next at Hendricson's, where we dined, and then at Jericho. By this time, we were thirteen altogether, including the driver. Just after we had turned off from the turnpike, the stage stopped and, as I was on the back seat, I could not see the reason. The passengers immediately jumped out, and I amongst the rest, and I perceived that the middle horse had fallen down, and we supposed that he was dying. After he was unharnessed, he remained perfectly still for some time, but on being raised up, he stood still for a few minutes and then laid down again, and groaned most piteously. We then walked on, and had walked, I suppose, three-quarters of a mile, when the stage overtook us.

Mr. Gould's horse was harnessed with the other two, and the other horse was led up the remainder of the way. As you know that I am a great coward, you may imagine that I was a little frightened at first. With the exception of this, we had a most delightful ride. The country looks most beautifully. The blossoms of many of the fruit trees have fallen off. Uncle Nelson came off to Huntington with the wagon for us. They are all very well here, and Angelina and Phoebe are very glad to get home. Angelina did not receive the letter [words torn away] that you directed to be taken there. Sarah Milnor heard from Dr. Post lately, and she says that he is much worse, and is not expected to live. She likewise says that Colonel M^cKenny is to be on here in a fortnight or three weeks, and I then hope that you will have the pleasure of seeing your unknown friend. Tell George that I will commence obtaining his specimens on Monday. I do not know whether I shall go to church tomorrow as it looks very much like rain.

Give my best love to my dear mother, brother and sister, and believe me,

Your ever affectionate daughter,

ELOISE.

NOTE: Gould is Mr. Strong's tenant-farmer on Lloyd's Neck, Uncle Nelson is Mr. John Nelson Lloyd, and Angelina and Phoebe

are Mr. Lloyd's daughters, returning home probably from some visit. Mr. Strong often mentions the Milnors in his letters. Dr. Post was his family physician, and there is a letter from Col. McKenny to Mr. Strong not reproduced here.

GEORGE W. STRONG TO GEORGE TEMPLETON STRONG

NEW YORK, 9th July, 1828.

MASTER JACKEY:

So you must know that today I hobbled up, as well as I could, with my lame foot, to M^r. Trappan's, where I bought you an elegant and most magnificent *Nautilus Pampilius*, price one Dollar. But it was so very delicate I could not conceive how I was to get it home, for if I carried it in my hand I was sure I should break it. M^r. Trappan said it did not weigh 4 ounces, and told me he would wrap it up in a piece of paper, and that I must carry it in my hat. I did so, and when I got home I went directly upstairs with my hat on, and took the *Nautilus Pampilius* out of my hat, and locked it up in your Mama's writing desk, where it remains safe and sound, and nobody knows anything about it except ourselves. When I come up to White Stone, I will endeavour to bring it with me, but I shall have to bring it in my hat. This, you know, is a *secret* between you and me, and

we will say nothing about it till I give it to you.

Your affectionate father,

GEO. W. STRONG.

MASTER GEORGE TEMPLETON STRONG.

JOHN N. LLOYD TO GEORGE W. STRONG

LLOYD'S NECK, 27th Oct. 1832.

MY DEAR SIR:

I received a letter from you in the early part of last week, which, together with the one immediately preceding, is destroyed.

It would appear from the newspapers that your City is nearly clear of cholera. . . . How it will affect the dense slave population remains to be seen. So far as the human mind can discern, it would seem to be a dispensation of mercy to both blacks and whites, should the plague sweep the former at once from the face of the earth. The stroke of death would terminate a captivity relentless in its exactions, and otherwise of hopeless duration. The oppressed and degraded negro would thus be gathered to that quiet mansion, "where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest." The slave owners would then be thrown upon their own resources, and in com-

pelled exertion find a remedy for that unquiet spirit which is now urging them headlong into treason.

. . . It does appear to me that the reelection of Jackson will be equivalent to a dismemberment of the Union, and that disunion must lead, sooner or later, to feuds of bitterness and bloodshed, such as the world will tremble to look upon. . . .

Very truly yours,

JNO. N. LLOYD.

G. W. STRONG, ESQ.

THE SAME

LLOYD'S NECK, 24 November, 1832.

MY DEAR SIR:

. . . The important question relative to our next Chief Magistrate is settled since I last wrote to you, and settled in such a manner as must give unfeigned grief and sad forebodings to every well informed man, who is at the same time the friend of his country. I have never believed in the permanency of our institutions. Their long continuance presupposes a degree of intelligence and virtue which has never yet been found in any nation, nor never will be, on this side the Millenium. Still, I had hoped that we might get on for yet a few years, that the inestimable blessings which it has

pleased Providence to crowd upon us might not, so soon, be spurned, or converted into curses. But these hopes are nearly extinct, and in their place stands the fearful anticipation of disunion, anarchy and civil strife. I almost doubt whether the efforts made by wise and good men to stay the impending storm will not, in fact, hasten its onset, and exasperate its horrors, for it really seems as if the approbation of such men, expressed in favour of any course, was alone sufficient to band the raving democracy of the country against it. . . .

I have read with much interest the account which you give of M^r Gallatin, nor am I surprised to perceive that you rank his talents very high. Hitherto I have had little opportunity to form any opinion of his mental powers. A correspondence which occurred between him and M^r Canning, left me under the impression that M^r C. was immeasurably the superior man; indeed, there was, indirectly, an assumption of superiority on the part of M^r Canning, which seemed to indicate that he thought slightingly of our Minister. All this, however, proved very little. Your intercourse with M^r G. must have been extremely pleasant, especially as he seems to have known something of the first Law characters in England. . . .

You have noticed, no doubt, the accounts of Sir Walter Scott's decease. I know you deal little in poetry, and perhaps less in novels, still, I cannot suppose that you feel entire indifference in relation to an individual who, as a poet and novelist, has for the last quarter of a century attracted the gaze of all eyes. A meeting has been called, I perceive, in New York, for the purpose of doing honour to his memory, and having gone thus far, I hope your citizens will not stop short of such an expression as shall convince the world that they know how to value other and higher things than pounds, shillings and pence.

Yours very truly,

JNO. N. LLOYD.

G. W. STRONG, ESQ.

NOTE: This letter was written on the day of the adoption by the Convention of South Carolina of the Nullification Ordinance, succeeded by President Jackson's Proclamation of December 11, and on March 2, 1833, by the adoption of the Compromise, which brought about peace.

THE SAME

LLOYD'S NECK, 20 April, 1833.

MY DEAR SIR:

. . . Immediately after I wrote last to you, I received information from Mr W. A. White that

your brother had been appointed a clerk in the Union Bank, and subsequently M^r. Howard was here, and let me more into particulars on the subject. I am much gratified that this provision has thus opportunely been made for so aimiable and estimable a man. Should he retain his health, he will, (as you say), with a little assistance, be able to support himself and family in comfort. I notice what you say of his aversion to any remarks on the subject of his misfortunes, and shall scrupulously spare his feelings in any communication I may have with the family. . . . With M^r. Cook, who married your niece, I was never acquainted. From the manner in which you speak of him, and from some indistinct recollections, I conclude that he resides in the country. His wife was, I think, your sister's eldest daughter. What must become of her and her eight children in the event of her husband's death? It is harrowing to dwell on such instances of helpless misery. . . .

Very sincerely yours,

JNO. N. LLOYD.

G. W. STRONG, ESQ.

NOTE: The earlier part of this letter refers to the failure of Strong, Willets and Co., Joseph Strong's firm, in 1822. The latter part refers to a daughter of Margaret Strong and the Joseph Strong who was Mr. Strong's cousin. This daughter married William A. Cook, a merchant in New York City, who retired to a farm at Smithtown, L. I., and died in May, 1833.

THE SAME

LLOYD'S NECK, 26 June, 1833.

MY DEAR SIR:

. . . The visit from General Jackson, which you were anticipating when you wrote your letter, has been paid, much to the satisfaction, (I should think), of all parties.

The overwhelming popularity of this man is indeed astonishing, nor do I know exactly to what cause it can be ascribed. Military reputation is no doubt at the bottom of the matter, but there certainly is something beyond that. He must understand men better than most persons. By the way, I perceive that in New Haven they wished him to attend an exhibition of statuary on Sabbath evening, *which he declined*. Now I don't believe that he cares any more about the Sabbath than many other people, but he knows full well that with a very large and respectable part of our population such a movement as this would weigh mightily in his favor. See the difference between him and J. Q. Adams, (who, by the bye, has more religion in his little finger than Jackson has in his entire person). Adams, in one of his journeys East, while he was President, rode from Providence to Boston on horseback, on Sunday. The newspapers got hold of him, (notwithstanding he performed the

ride in a short jacket), and sad work they made. But Adams, out of his study, is a booby, while in it I suspect he may safely challenge the first statesmen of the age. . . .

Very sincerely yours,

JNO. N. LLOYD.

G. W. STRONG, ESQ

WILLIAM JOHNSON TO GEORGE W. STRONG

ALBANY, August 12th, 1822.

MY DEAR SIR:

Your letter by Mr. W. was received yesterday. I have not forgot your business, but have not yet had an opportunity to *move* the Court. There is an unusually full Bar, and much business to be done. . . . The report of Friday as to the fever was alarming, but I am glad to perceive, by the paper of Saturday, that only one new case was reported on that day. . . . I hope that the families now collected at Jamaica will continue in health. Their situation is pleasant and airy, and a letter from Maria, of Friday, is very satisfactory.

I trust, my dear Strong, that you will not expose your self, should the fever extend further into the City. Be so kind as to write me as often as you

can. As a boat arrives here every day by which the papers are received, we are not kept long in suspense, and are able to rectify the exaggerated reports of passengers.

How is our friend Mr. Wells?

Yours affectionately,

WM. JOHNSON.

G. W. STRONG, ESQ.

THE SAME

ALBANY, August 18th, 1822.

DEAR STRONG:

I thank you for your letter which was received yesterday. My anxiety for the family in Carlisle Street is increased by the information you give of the additional causes of alarm. They are, perhaps, from their habits and mode of life, less exposed than many others to a contagious disease, yet it is prudent that they should remove and, as I see that the Board of Health, on Tuesday, recommended the removal of all persons from that vicinity, I expect to hear tomorrow that they are all gone to Jamaica, for I agree with you that they had better go out of the City. Though I admire and confide in the prudence, calmness and dis-

cretion of our sister Olivia, yet in a case of this kind, I think she will not hesitate to comply with our wishes, even if she apprehends no danger. I should think Mrs. Templeton would bear the ride in an easy coach, the road is so smooth and easy.

I received a letter from Maria, and was happy to learn that they were all well at Jamaica.

The Calendar of Causes is large, (512 notices), and the session of the Court will probably continue three weeks. Yesterday the Court decided the cause of Bruen *vs.* Warner and denied the set-off. No other judgements will be given before the last week. The Court sit from 9 to 2. No cause of consequence has yet been argued.

Let me hear from you as often as leisure or opportunity will permit. My love to Eliza, mama and sisters, and our little ones.

Yours sincerely,

WM. JOHNSON.

NOTE: Miss Olivia Templeton is remembered well by the writer of this note as his kind "Aunt Olivia," more correctly great-aunt. She died unmarried, and was the last in that family. Miss Olivia led a very retired life, in her house on Gramercy Park, No. 70 East 21st Street, next door to Mr. Geo. W. Strong's house, No. 72, and next door but one to Mr. George Templeton Strong's house, No. 74. Between Nos. 72 and 74 was a vacant lot, "The Long Garden," and so used by the adjoining families.

JOHN WELLS TO GEORGE W. STRONG

ALBANY, Wednesday Evening.

MY DEAR SIR:

As it was impracticable for me to get here before last night, without killing my wife, which I have at present no desire to do, and running the risk of sharing the same fate myself, which I am also desirous of avoiding, I could not move in the case of the Union Bank against Bell till this morning, which I then did. I took Judgement without opposition, and entered the rule for a Writ of Enquiry to the Coroner of New York. I fear however that it is too late for you to save the Term, especially as in the present state of the roads, which afford, the greater part of the way, neither wheeling nor sleighing, this letter will probably not reach you in the usual time. I send it, however, to let it take its chance, and if it arrives too late, it could not have been avoided, without a fatigue and exposure by riding the whole of a second night, which I did not think this or any of my other business required, and in which opinion I am sure of your concurrence.

Believe me very truly yours,

JOHN WELLS.

GEO. W. STRONG, ESQ.

[Endorsed, 5 January, 1820.]

THE SAME

ALBANY, Jan. 23rd, 1820.

DEAR SIR:

The Supreme Court rose on Friday last, having on that day heard no arguments, but merely meeting to give opinions. In the case of *Whitney vs. the Firemen's Insurance Company*, I took judgment by default before Jones arrived here, which still stands, but I agreed to waive it upon his arguing it on paper whilst we are here, so as to give the case and arguments to the Judges, and have their opinion at the next Term. If this is not done, I will hold the default, and so he understands it, and I have reason to think I shall be furnished with his argument tomorrow, mine having been finished some days since. This I beg you will explain to Mr. Whitney, who will probably be inquiring what has been done in the cause, and especially that the argument on paper is every way as useful as if it had been in open Court, tho it to me is much more troublesome. I have no doubt I shall be able to hand the papers to the Judges in the course of the week. Nothing having been done in New York about the freight from the *Hilda*, I have, of course, left the case as it was, as I did not think the delay could have been compensated by the additional fact we wished to introduce, even if it could

have been established, which, after all, would seem to be doubtful.

With regard to Mr. Byers' cause, from whom I have received a letter, why does not he get the deposition of the witness taken in the other cause retaken under the Act of Congress? I will write to him and he will, I suppose, call on you. I will ascertain from Judge W. P. Van Ness, who I believe is here, whether he means to hold the Court at the regular Term, and let you know. The Court of Errors meet on Tuesday, and I do not hope to get away from here till the end of next week. The Renwick cause must rest till I return, when, if the books are not produced by consent, we must except, or amend our bill if necessary, for the books we must have. The cause of *Woolsey vs. Smith* I submitted with Mr. Oakley, on extending our points a little. We did not come near it on the Calendar, and I supposed it was better to dispose of it, as I put all on paper I could have said. Tell Wilkins, if he should inquire about the cause of *Warner vs. Bruen*, that it was not reached. We were within two or three causes of it, and I should have argued it, if it had been reached. The Watt cause has not been argued, but we will be able to dispose of it, without doubt, in May. I have written to Wickoff, and after I have seen him, will

write to you the result. I send you the papers you sent to me for the Governor's certificate with it annexed.

I am,

Very truly yours,

JOHN WELLS.

G. W. STRONG, ESQ.

P. S. Judge Van Ness has promised me his opinion in the Glass case, but I have not received it. He told me it proceeded on the construction of the Act, that a manufacturer could not import at his own cost, but must add the usual profit, and that he thought it a case for the Secretary of the Treasury.

THOMAS ADDIS EMMET TO GEORGE W. STRONG

ALBANY, Sept. 4th, 1822.

G. W. STRONG, ESQ.

DEAR SIR:

By what accident I do not know, but it has so happened that the cases for the Court of Errors in *Coddington vs. Bay* have not come up, but I have put it on the state of alarm in New York, and that they have been left at your office in the infected district. . . . I regret on every account my friend Wells' protracted indisposition, but in no

small degree as it has delayed the argument of
Nourse vs. Prime, Ward & Sands.

Believe me, sincerely and respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

THOS. ADDIS EMMET.

CHANCELLOR KENT TO GEORGE W. STRONG

April 25, 1826.

10 A. M.

DEAR SIR:

You will consider this note, of course, as *confidential*.

I have been looking over the cases as to *the time* when the bill in question ought to have been presented for payment, and the point is left so uncertain that I cannot rely upon any case. I suspect, then, that mercantile usage would hold a bill *payable at 60 days sight*, and *accepted payable on 2nd November, 1825*, as in fact *payable* on that day, and that the acceptor had himself given credit for the 3 days of grace. He could be estopped from claiming any days of grace beyond the 2nd of November. He could be considered as having included them in his designation of the 2nd of November. The drawer and endorsers have no right to claim days for him that he cannot claim for himself. If he was bound to *pay* on the 2nd November, they are

chargeable on his *default*. I have no doubt that, if we were to resort to parol proof, it would appear that the 2nd of November was the 63rd day after acceptance. It is common with merchants to mark bills as *due* such a day, (the day they fall due), and *payable* such a day, (the 3rd day of grace). I am rather of opinion, upon better reflection, that the act of the acceptor would be taken, as against him, to mean that the 2nd of November was *the end of the days of grace*. I think there is much color for argument and so much reasonableness, and probably so much usage on that side, that I dare not give an opinion to the contrary, especially as I cannot find cases to bear me out.

I beg you therefore to mention to the other gentlemen you consult, (in case my name has already been mentioned), that Mr. K. says *that he is so circumstanced that he is obliged to decline giving an opinion in the case*.

It would be of no use for me to talk with the gentlemen you named, for unless the cases are to be found that settle the point, it is not probable they could, by mere argument, remove my doubts and scruples.

Yours very sincerely,

JAMES KENT.

G. W. STRONG, ESQ.

FRANCIS GRIFFIN AT NEW YORK TO GEO. W.
STRONG AT WILTON, CONN.

NEW YORK, September 5th, 1832.

MY DEAR SIR:

I am this moment in receipt of your letter of the 3rd inst. With regard to the cholera, and the propriety of your return to town, I will endeavour to give you all the information which I possess, but which after all is very meagre. With regard to advice, I feel very unwilling to give any. I am here in town myself, and do not wish myself out of it. . . . The universal opinion however seems to be that the disease has been, and still is, on the decline. I have heard no contrary opinions. I this morning understood from a source I relied on, that there were but seven hospital cases yesterday, and those all of a mild character. My father, who you know is very nervous on the subject, has made many inquiries, and amongst others of two or three respectable physicians, and has himself come to the conclusion that the city is as safe as the country, and he accordingly contemplates bringing his family in town either on Friday or early next week. If he delays until next week, it is not because he fears anything from the cholera. I also find many families returned, and in many others that the head of the family has returned for the

purpose of opening the house, and getting the servants together, with a view of bringing in their families immediately. . . . Doctor Wright told my father today that the disease had abated very much within the last two days. Doctor Barrow says he should fear the country fevers more than cholera in town. The rumor to which you refer, of six cases in Cross Street, I had not heard of before I saw it in your letter. M^r Nathan called at your brother Benjamin's this morning, after the receipt of your letter. Your brother Benjamin said in his cautious way, that he did not know but that it was proper to tell you that it was safe to come to town. He desired us to say that the house in Greenwich street near yours, which had been a source of alarm, had now been cleansed and purified, and he did not think it was any longer to be feared.

Upon reading over this letter, it strikes me that the whole tenor of it may be in favor of your immediate return to town. I should not wish that my personal opinion should have any effect upon you. I wish I could give you more facts. As your brother says, in New York you hear nothing said about the cholera, that is, nothing definite or satisfactory. At all events, I do not see why you should return before the time you seem to have fixed, (11th inst.) You could not, if you would,

return before the end of the week, and the beginning of next week will be as good for all practical purposes as the end of this. There is considerable to be done in the office at present, but which I will endeavour to get along with as well as I can till your return. M^r C. W. Lawrence called yesterday; he has been waiting your return some time. The bankruptcy papers you prepared to send to England for him, have been returned for correction, with voluminous remarks by the English counsel. He seemed so anxious to have them got under way, that I told him I would attempt to draft them, and get them ready for your correction when you came to town.

Owing to the situation in which I left M^{rs} Griffin, I shall feel obliged to visit her on Saturday, and shall not return until Monday. My father, however, will make his arrangements so as to be in the office on those days. The Superior Court met on Monday, adjourned until today, and then again adjourned until next Monday. The Calendar is large, and the Bar generally have returned, but neither lawyers nor clients have been long enough in town to have causes prepared. I directed M^r Nathan not to notice any of our causes. The Garcia cause was noticed against us, but has gone off for the term. The case of *Hone vs. Newbold* is also

noticed against us, and stands N^o 78 on the Calendar.

I regretted extremely that I should have been absent when you visited Stratford. Your letter spoke so uncertainly of your coming over that I hardly expected you. If I had, I should certainly staid at home. I went on a tiresome fishing party, which I hoped at the time would fall through, purely to make up the party and oblige Judge Hoffman, who has a greater taste for catching fish than trying causes. I shall however do the best I can to attend to the business to which you have directed my attention. I have however received so many interruptions today from persons calling in, and expect so many more tomorrow and the next day, and being withal hardly yet broken into the harness, that I fear I shall accomplish very little this week. . . .

In the case of *Case vs. Weeks*, M^r. Nathan says he has been two or three times to see M^r. Case without success; he will call again this afternoon at M^r. C's dinner hour. I presume M^r. Case will enlarge the time. I should prefer this course. I never understood much about the suit. There are two or three suits which run into each other, and I fear I should not understand very well how to make out the costs. If M^r. Case does not consent, I will do the best I can.

In *Taylor vs. Graham* I will endeavour to do as you suggest. Two or three of the clerks have returned, but they are not quite prepared to sit down regularly to copying.

In *Tucker and Lawries ads. Hay*, the Commission has been opened, and put into the clerk's hands to copy.

Mr Nathan desired me to say that he had met your servant, Isaac, who was in want of money. If you desire it, I will hand him any amount you may name. If I can be of any service preparatory to your coming to town, in the way of getting your house arranged, you must command me.

Excuse my scrawl; it is now half past ten at night. I am at Bunker's, where I lodge, and must yet put my letter into the Post-office.

Very respectfully and truly,

FRANCIS GRIFFIN.

NOTE: Francis Griffin was the son of George Griffin, Mr. Strong's partner, and was probably a partner also.

ROBERT FULTON TO GEORGE W. STRONG

NEW YORK, October 25th, 1813.

MR. STRONG:

SIR:

In building the *Paragon*, I had no concern with Messrs. Badgley and Weeks. My contract was

with Mr. Charles Brownne to build the boat and do the joiner's work. And so minute is the Contract, that the joiner's work should in all things be executed like the *Car*, in principle, quantity and quality, that every thing is mentioned, even to making drawers to hold the workmen's cloaths and tools. That Contract M^r Brownne shewed to M^r Weeks. He had the *Car* to look at, by which to judge of his estimate, which, I think, was 2800 \$. He, however, received, I think, of M^r Brownne 3000 \$, and 100 of Cap^t Wisnall, that is, 300 more than his estimate. And now he demands 1500 \$ more, which is one half more than his estimate and Contract. As the *Car* and *Paragon* are of the same length and, breadth of beam, and the latter has only 4 berths more than the first, as the floors, linings, ceilings and partitions have the same number of superficial feet, the sky-lights in number the same, but the *Car*'s the largest, Wheel-guards and cover to the wheels the same, pantries, bar, servants' berths, tool and cloaths' drawers for the men the same, where could he put 1500 or 300 dollars worth of work more in the *Paragon* than in the *Car*? It is impossible, and whatever his journeymen may say of over 1000 \$ additional work, I have had the two boats compared by experienced Master builders, and they are puzzled to tell which has the most

or best executed work, the *Paragon* or the *Car*.
. . . I have, my good sir, stated to you these facts and my view of the subject. Mr. Weeks will judge for himself whether it be politic for him to risque more money in prosecuting a claim to which, in my opinion, he has not a shadow of right.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient,

ROBT. FULTON.

NOTE: *Car* means the preceding steamboat, *Car of Neptune*.

PHILO RUGGLES TO GEORGE W. STRONG

POUGHKEEPSIE, July 31st, 1815.

GEORGE W. STRONG, ESQUIRE.

SIR:

I received your memorandum a few days ago by Mr. Bostwick, respecting the money which you are willing to loan to me and Mr. Bulkley. I expected him here at farthest last Saturday night, but, not coming, I have sent the bond to him to be executed, which will be returned to me tomorrow night, and I expect to send it down by the *Fire Fly* on Wednesday, to the care of Mr. Flewwelling, cashier of the Manhattan Bank. I shall want the

money deposited in that bank, and a certificate sent to me by him, so that I may receive the money at the bank here. If you will be good enough to call on him on Thursday, so that the business may be done, and I receive the certificate by the next boat, it will much oblige me. I shall write to him particularly upon the subject.

I am,

with Respect, your Humb^l Serv't,

PHILO RUGGLES.

GEORGE W. STRONG TO JOHN WALLIS

NEW YORK, 9 Decr. 1814.

JOHN WALLIS, ESQ.,

Attorney to MICHAEL LOWBER

DR. SIR,

In answer to your note of yesterday, I am instructed by the directors of the Union Bank to state to you that they extremely regret that Mr. Lowber, or any other person, should so far forget the duty due to himself and the community at large, as to hold out threats like those contained in your note. Mr. Lowber has no reason to complain. He is asked merely to fulfil his own engagement, and the Bank are perfectly willing to receive their

own bills in payment of his. The *object* and *motives* of Mr. Lowber are boldly and distinctly avowed in your note, which, coming from you in the professed capacity of agent to him, I think cannot fail to be received as competent testimony against him, should he be so imprudent and revengeful as to put his threats in execution, and it is confidently believed that, under all the circumstances of this case, a Court of Equity, (to which a resort would probably be had), will effectually restrain any proceedings at law originating in such motives. For any bills of the Union Bank which he may hold, the bills of any other Bank in this city more acceptable to him will be readily given to him in exchange, but a payment in specie is at present peremptorily declined, for reasons perfectly well known to you and every other man in the community, and it is believed that so odious would be a prosecution against any Bank in this city, for the non-payment of its bills in specie at this distressing time, that, as well the individual attempting it as those assisting in it, would be marked with general detestation. The Banks, therefore, in this place, are determined to resist at present, and at every hazard, any attempt to coerce them into the payment of specie, where the object proceeds merely from a spirit of unreason-

able revenge, or other sinister motive, and they cannot but think that every virtuous man will set his face against such a procedure. After this frank explanation, it is for you to judge how far it will be expedient for you to advise your client to put his threats in execution, and it remains only for me to add that your attempts, so far from receiving any facility from me by way of voluntary courtesy, will, in every instance, be resisted with the utmost legal rigor.

Yours, etc.,

GEO. W. STRONG,

Att'y for the UNION BANK.

NOTE: An elaborate account of this part of the financial history of the United States will be found in Senator Beveridge's *History of John Marshall*, Vol. IV, Chap. iv.

THE ORPHAN ASYLUM SOCIETY TO GEORGE W. STRONG

DEAR SIR:

I have the pleasure to transmit to you a Resolution of the Ladies of the Orphan Asylum Society, passed at their last meeting unanimously:

Resolved, That the Secretary prepare an expression of the thanks of the Board to George W. Strong Esq. for his kind, able and gratuitous services in closing the business of the Legacy of

Phil^d Jacobs Esq., and soliciting his acceptance of a Silver Pitcher, engraved with the device of the Seal of the Orphan Asylum Society.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

MARIA MONTGOMERY

Sec'y of the ORPHAN A. SOCIETY.

[in pencil]

E. HAMILTON.

GREENWICH, NEW YORK.

July, 1833.

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